



Galway County Council Archives

**LOUGHREA TOWN
COMMISSIONERS,
MINUTES**

LTC/1/23

11 December 1995 - 10 June 2002

**THE
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LTC/1/23

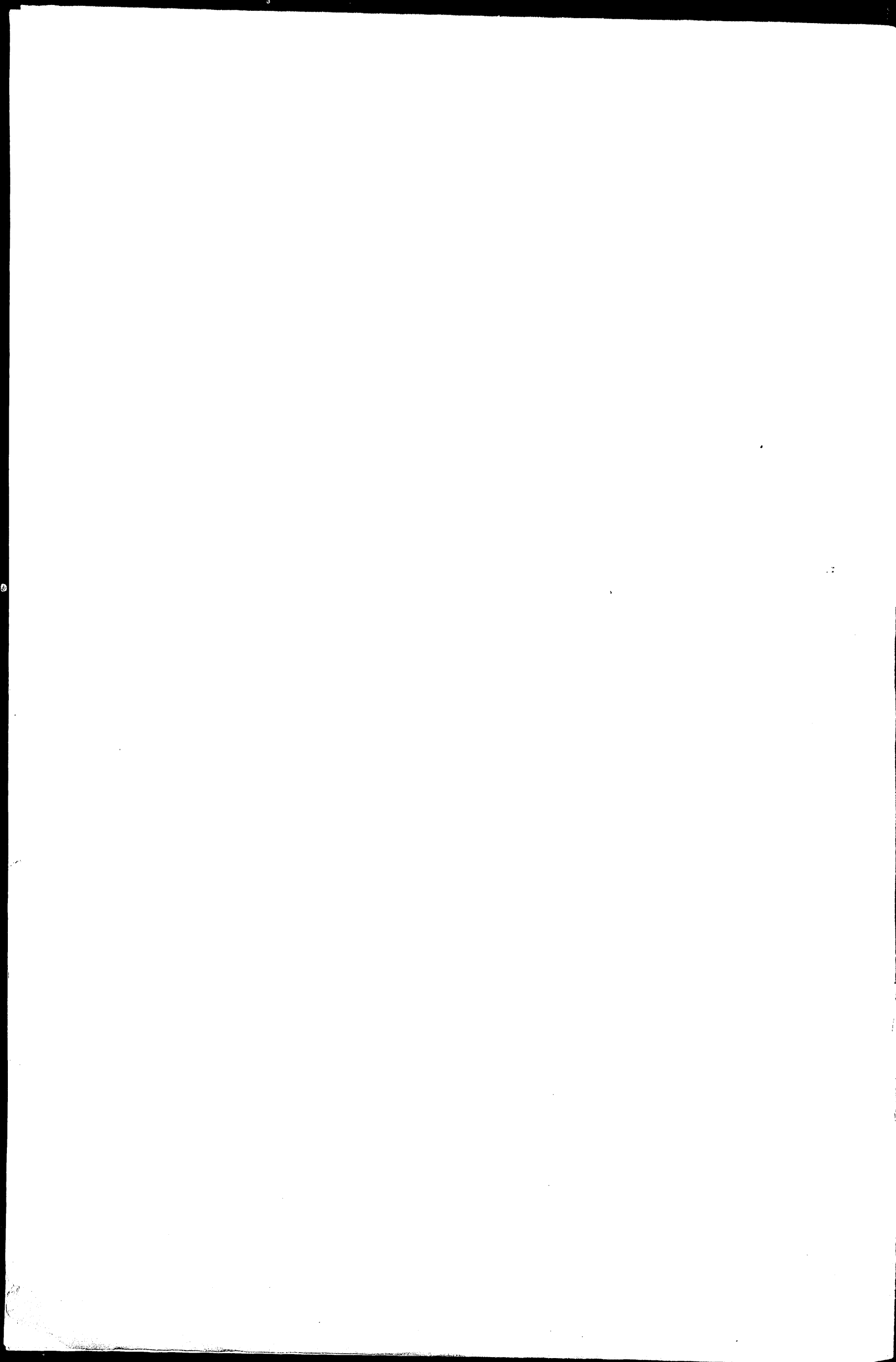
Minutes - DECEMBER 1995.
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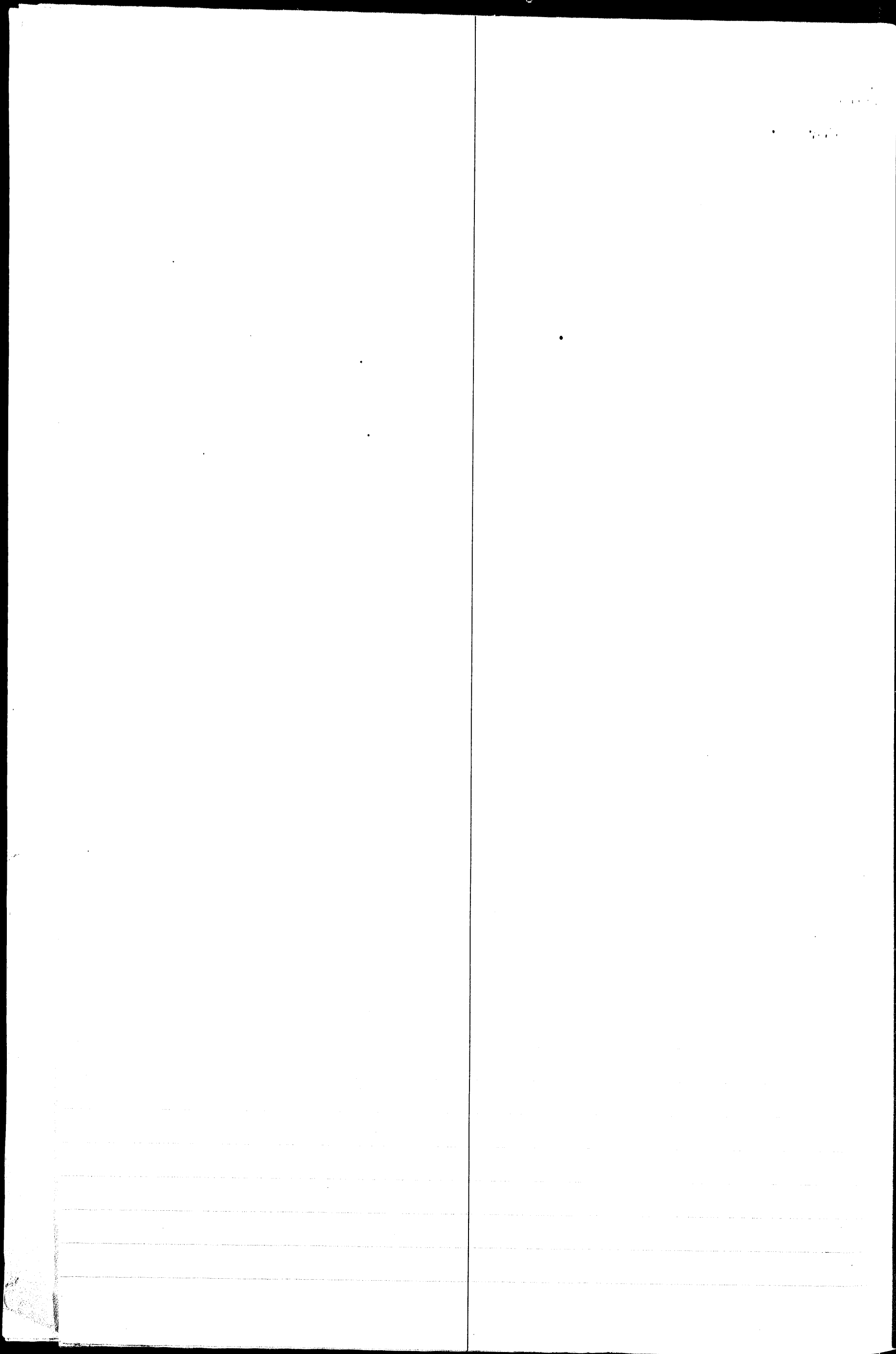
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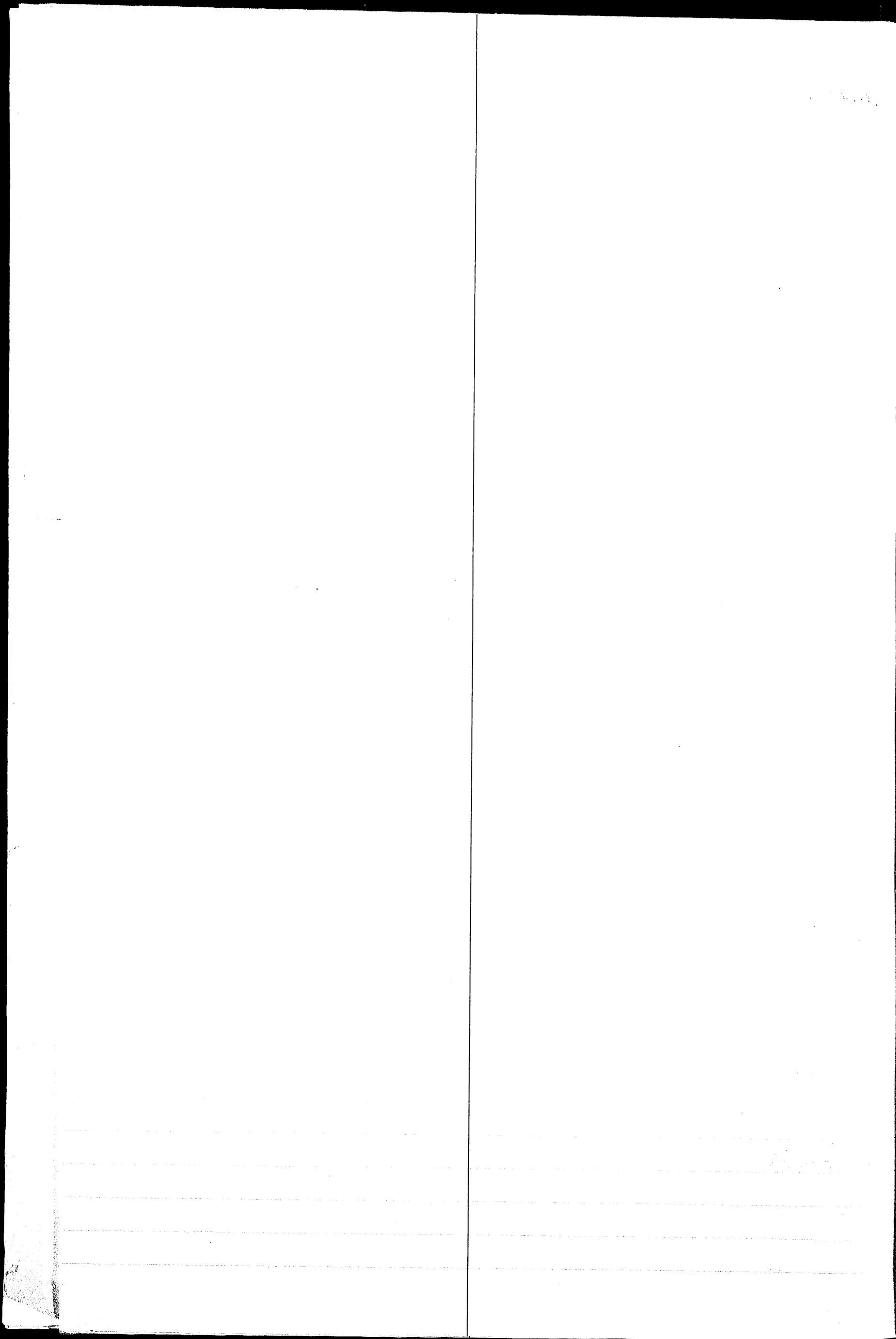
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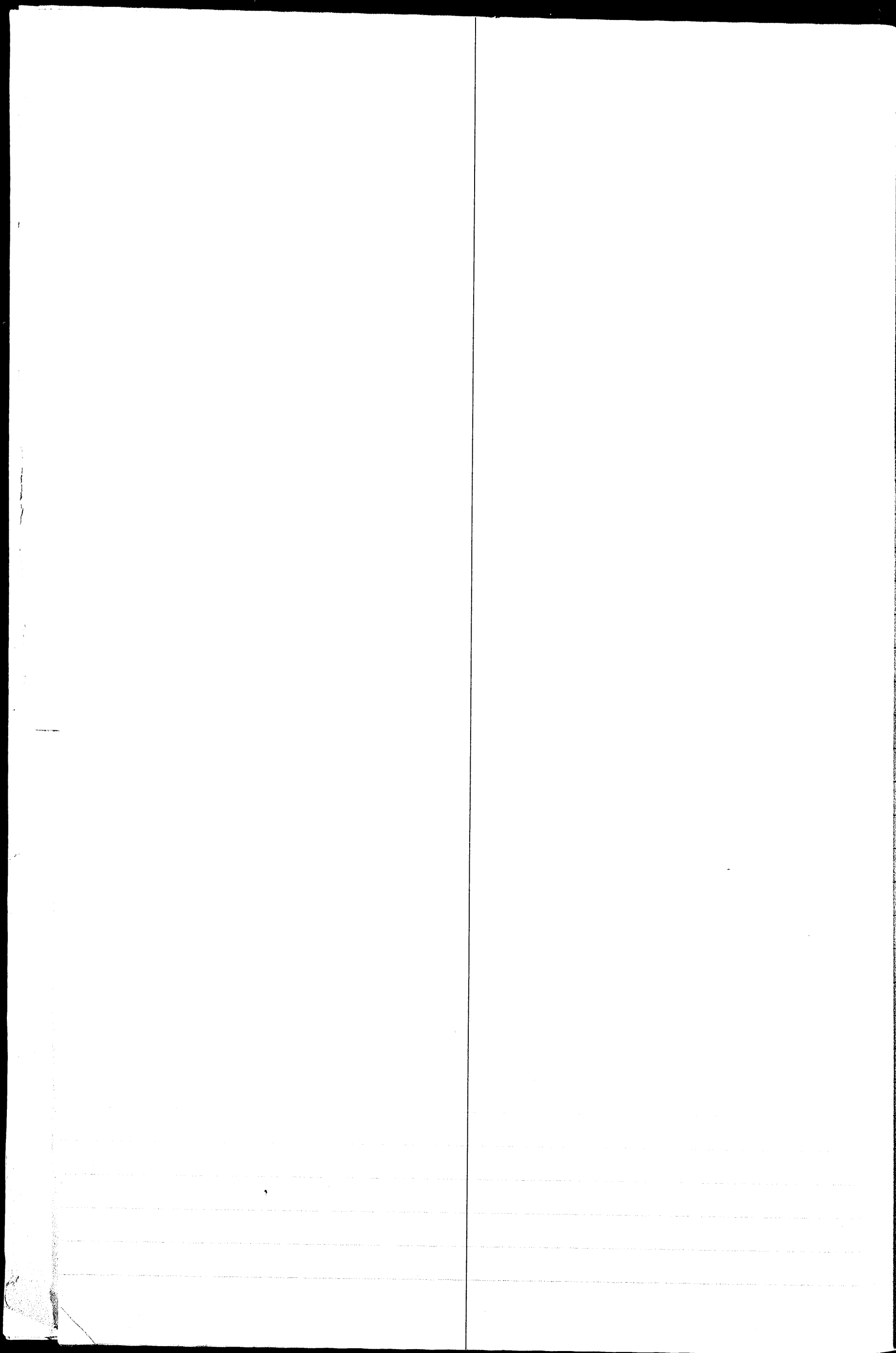
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Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/12/95.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Chairman.

Present: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Norman Morgan, Pat Hynes, Brendan Donnellan, Matt Loughnane, James Regan, Jimmy Curley.

Officials: T. Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, A. Marmion, Town Clerk.

Others: Messers Paul Connaughton T.D., Michael Kitt T.D. Noel Treacy T.D.

Meeting opened with prayers.

The Chairman welcomed the three local Dail Representatives to the meeting and stated that the purpose of their visit is to see what can be done with regard to getting a new sewerage treatment plant for Loughrea. The Chairman pointed out that Loughrea had been top of the priority list in Galway but that other towns had subsequently got preference over it. The position is so serious now that planning permission and/or future industrial development could be in jeopardy due to lack of sewerage facilities.

Comm. Loughnane stated that it is not correct to state that Loughrea lost its place on the Co. Council priority list, the Contract Documents are with the Department awaiting Ministerial approval while in the mean time the Dunkellin river is being polluted. Comm. Hynes posed the question why and by whom was Loughrea bypassed? Comm. Gunter-Nix accepted that the Council had done its part and that it is now up to the Department to provide the money. The three deputies thanked the meeting for inviting them. Deputy Connaughton stated that they all accept that Loughrea has a good case. The cost of providing this scheme is about #8 million. This will not be provided in 1996 and he suggested meeting the Minister to try to impress on him the urgency of the matter. Deputy Connaughton agreed to arrange this meeting. Both Deputies Kitt and Treacy agreed with Deputy Connaughton and all three of them agreed to accompany the deputation.

Deputy Treacy asked that the Asst. Co. Manager and the Town Clerk get together and make out an up to date report. Deputy Treacy also asked that a copy of this report be given to each of the 3 deputies.

Deputation: A deputation representing the employees of Cigna and Schlegel (Ireland) Ltd. was received by the meeting. The deputation consisted of Catherine Hynes, Patricia McGhee, & Eva Sammon from Cigna and John Forde from Schlegel. Ms. Hynes stated that the stretch of roadway from Ted's Filling ~~stretch~~ to their factory entrance is highly dangerous. There were many accidents and near misses along this stretch of roadway and it is only a matter of time before someone is killed. Several requests were made for public lighting but to no avail. There is no footpath and the road surface is very poor without cat's-eyes or roadmarkings on the northside. Ms. Hynes stated she was given to understand that 12 lights are required to light this area and that these would cost #20,000. While Cigna is prepared to contribute towards the cost Ms. Hynes felt that this is a bit pricey. Mr. Kavanagh stated that the N.R.A. is responsible for public lighting on the national routes and if funds are provided the Council will proceed with the work.

The members assured the deputation that it had their full support. The Deputation thanked the meeting for receiving them and left. On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Loughnane it was

decided to write to the N.R.A. requesting that public lighting be provided in this area. On the suggestion of Comm. Moloney the Chairman undertook to contact the companies concerned requesting them to put their demands in writing to the Town Clerk who would in turn forward them to the N.R.A. for its attention.

The Walks: Comm. Donnellan stated that he wished to compliment the Co. Council on the work it had carried out in The Walks, he also wanted to condemn the vandals who had broken a tree and dumped kerbing into the river over the weekend. Comm. Barrett associated himself with Comm. Donnellan's remarks.

Lake Level: In reply to Comm. Morgan the Town Clerk stated that the Co. Council waterworks caretaker operates the sluice gates on the lake when required.

General Council of County Councils: Notice of one day seminar to be held on 26/1/96 in the Great Southern Hotel, Shannon, was read by the Town Clerk. On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Moloney this letter was marked read.

Overhead E.S.B. Mains: The E.S.B. in its letter dated 21/11/95 stated that it saw no reason to spend a large amount of money insulating the overhead mains in Loughrea. This letter was signed by Mr. Pat Boyce, Customer Service Engineer who can be contacted at 091-757641.

Fire Service: The County Council in its letter dated 16/11/95 stated that the Draft 5 Year Capital Programme for Fire Services includes development of a second appliance bay and provision of additional fire appliance in Loughrea. The letter pointed out that this Capital Programme is not yet adopted.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery: The Co. Council stated that funds are not available to provide a tap at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Comm. Regan stated the Masonbrook Group Scheme is prepared to allow a connection and he agreed to get written permission for this.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:-

a) "I would like to ask Galway Co. Co. if they are going to request the people of Loughrea to pay a £50 a year levy on the town sewerage system and if so why."

Mr. Kavanagh in reply stated that this charge is included in the Council's Estimates which were adopted at the Estimates Meeting. The Charge is necessary due to the bad system of funding local government, as books must be balanced. Mr. Kavanagh added that he would not be happy if this Board criticised the Council for doing its duty. In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Kavanagh stated that the Waiver Scheme will apply to this charge. Comm. Morgan felt that a charge of £50 is not excessive but he would be concerned if it gets any higher.

b) "I would like to ask Galway Co. Council when they propose to erect the necessary barrier on the boundary wall of the car-park at Barrack St."

The Town Clerk in reply stated that this matter is under consideration by the Town Engineer.

c) "I would like to ask Galway Co.Co. to investigate a gully at Bohercom (St. Brides Grove) as there was severe flooding in houses at Bride St. last January as a result of this gully being blocked." Comm. Morgan seconded this motion.

In reply to Comm. Hynes the Town Clerk stated that he understands that some work is planned to alleviate flooding at Cross St. but he had no information regarding flooding at Cuscarrick.

On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Morgan, the Town Clerk was instructed to request Galway Co. Co. to carry out this work.

Motions submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:-

At the December meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose:-

(1) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners liaise with Galway County Council to draw up a plan of on-going FAS work to be undertaken in Loughrea during 1996."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan and passed unanimously. Mr. Kavanagh suggested that perhaps the development of Corry's Field might be considered under such schemes.

(2) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners urge the people of the area to shop locally in order to improve the town's economy."

This motion which was seconded by Comm. Moloney had the unanimous support of the meeting.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 11 December, 1995, I will propose that Galway Co. Council be requested to explain:

a) "Why only half of the car-park at Barrack St., Loughrea has been lined while the other half has been left unlined."

b) "Why the work of reconstruction of the junction adjacent to Mount Carmel Monastery entrance, which commenced in December, 1994, has taken a year to complete."

The Town Clerk in reply to the question re the car-park stated that the section of the old car-park requires resurfacing and it is proposed to line this car-park when this work is carried out.

With regard to the work at Mount Carmel Crescent the Town Clerk stated that the Co. Council had deferred this work as other public bodies had sought permission to open the roadway in this locality.

Comm. Morgan stated that he could not accept this reply and stated that the private sector do a far better and quicker job.

Comm. Donnellan stated that he wished to compliment the Council workers on the work which they had done at Mount Carmel. Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she took exception to Comm. Morgan's remarks while Comm. Regan remarked that the Co.Co. workers had to go in to complete the wall of the car-park which was provided by the private sector.

Mr. Kavanagh stated that it is unfair to compare the public sector with the private sector and if this type of criticism continues he will not allow motions of this nature to appear on the agenda. Comm. Morgan stated that he would question Mr. Kavanagh's right to interfere with the agenda.

Musical: Comm. Barrett congratulated St Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society on reaching its 50th year. He complimented the Society on its outstanding production of South Pacific and he also complimented Mr. J.B. Donohoe on the article he wrote about the show in the Connacht Tribune. Comm. Donnellan associated himself with the Chairman's remarks adding that this year's show would compare favourably with any show in the country.

Work at Fair Green: In reply to Comm. Regan the Town Clerk stated that it is proposed to continue the wall and path through the plantation to join up with the Court House road. Traffic travelling westwards towards Gort could also turn onto the Court House road if it so wished.

Loughrea Bypass: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Kavanagh stated that he had heard an official of the N.R.A. say that the bypass will be a single carriageway with no roundabouts. This will necessitate new plans.

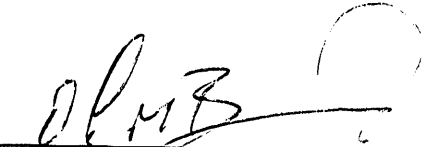
Unread Letter: Comm. Morgan accused the Chairman of not informing the Board of a letter which he had received from Ms. Perlie McNally-Fullard regarding her boundary but had instead passed this letter to the Asst. County Manager. The Chairman stated that he had dealt with the letter as he saw fit.

Boundary Wall: Comm. Donnellan stated that he understood that the Co. Council is about to build 6 new houses adjoining St. Laurencesfields and he ask the Asst. Co. Manager if a proper boundary wall could be provided separating St. Laurencesfields from this proposed scheme.

Congratulations: Comm. Moloney congratulated Mr. J.B. Donohoe and Mr. Michael Burke on their excellent interview given to Galway Bay FM.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 8th day of January, 1996.


Chairperson.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/1/96.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Chairman.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Norman Morgan, Pat Hynes, Brendan Donnellan, Matt Loughnane, James Regan, Jimmy Curley.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 11/12/95 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Moloney.

Flooding: Arising from the minutes the Town Clerk informed Comm. Curley that he had written to Galway Co. Council re flooding in Loughrea. Comm. Loughnane stated that the flooding at Cross Street arose because the gully at the Co. Home road is not adequate to take the flood and he proposed that Galway Co. Council be asked to provide money to improve this gully. Comm. Morgan seconded this proposal but added that this was not what had caused the flooding at Cross Street. Comm. Morgan thanked the County Council for providing two extra gullies at Cross Street.

Conferences: Notice of intention to hold the following conferences was read to the meeting:-

1. Conference entitled Tourism Development and the Local Authority, organised by European Cultural Conferences and Kerry Co. Co. Feb. 1st to 3rd at Gleneagle Hotel Killarney.
2. "Tourism Ireland Conference '96, People & Partnership" in the Adair Arms Hotel, Ballymena, organised by Sligo & Ballymena Chambers of Commerce.
3. "Local Government on Threshold of Change" organised by Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland in Bundoran on 9th & 10th February. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix it was agreed not to send delegates to these conferences. It was proposed by Comm. Moloney and seconded by Comm. Donnellan that the local Chamber of Commerce be informed of conferences nos 1 & 2 above.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

a) "That the County Manager and County Engineer be informed that the "Loughrea 1200" Commemoration commences on the 1st of January, 1997, and request that as many improvements to Loughrea as possible be carried out this year in preparation for the event." This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley. Comm. Morgan stated that it is hoped that each club or association would put on its own event. Comm. Gunter-Nix suggested that a "Loughrea 1200" committee should be set up to see what support there is for an idea like this. Mr. Nelson stated that the success of a venture such as this depends on what support it gets on the ground. It is not really local authority business, he would have no problem with including funding in the Estimates for consideration by the Board. On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Donnellan, it was suggested to Comm. Morgan that as Chairman of the Loughrea Literary & Historical Society, he should arrange

for a public meeting to see what support there is for this idea.

b) "That Galway Co. Council be asked to provide as soon as possible, the necessary funds to tarmac and line the old section of the car park at Barrack Street."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Loughnane and passed unanimously.

c) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners provide funds to provide an extra light in The Walk at its junction with the entrance to The Abbey."

Comm. Morgan amended this motion to read:

That Galway Co. Council be asked to provide funds for an additional light in The Walk, Loughrea at its junction with the entrance to The Abbey.

Comm. Donnellan asked that the fence along the river bank on the south side of the eastern entrance gate be replaced.

Loughrea Library: Comm. Loughnane stated that Galway County Council has extensive plans for the new library in Loughrea and he proposed that the County Librarian be invited to attend a meeting of the Commissioners to outline these plans.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that the invitation should go through the Co. Sec.

Crime Increase: Comm. Loughnane referred to the increase in crime in rural areas, particularly in this locality and he proposed that the Minister for Justice be asked to provide proper funding to police the area. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Proposed Bypass: In reply to queries from Comm. Hynes and Comm. Moloney, Mr. Nelson stated that he will report back to the next meeting on the present position of the proposed bypass road.

Water Pressure: Comm. Curley stated that he had received complaints regarding lack of water pressure at The Hill and at St. Laurencesfields and he asked if anything is being done about it. The Town Clerk in reply stated during the recent cold spell he had received complaints regarding loss of water in certain areas, burst pipes and running taps had contributed to this. The Town Clerk added that certain areas in the town are at risk whenever the demand for water increases, in an effort to improve the situation the Co. Council intend to lay a direct line to service the Caherwalter area in the coming year.

Cosmona Area: Comm. Donnellan stated that he was asked to request the Co. Council to repair the potholes in Cosmona and also to pipe or clean an open drain in this area.

Hosting a Seminar: Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to the number of seminars which are held throughout the country and she wondered if Loughrea should consider hosting a seminar on tourism. Mr. Nelson stated that hosting a seminar can be a very expensive exercise and he stated that he was aware of a 3 day seminar that had cost \$14,000 to host.

Wall at St Laurencesfields: Comm. Moloney asked if any progress was made with regard to providing a boundary wall for Mrs. Perlle Fullard and others at St. Laurencesfields.

Mr. Nelson stated that he had received estimates for the construction of a wall in this area, the estimates were so high that the Co. Council could

not possibly get involved. Mr. Nelson stated that he has other ideas, which may or may not be feasible, which he hopes to pursue a bit further.

Thanks: Comm. Morgan welcomed the news regarding the improvements to the water supply and he also congratulated the people of the area on their efforts to promote Loughrea over the Christmas period.

Housing: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Nelson stated that the 1996 Housing Programme is not yet decided, the biggest demand is in the Loughrea area and if the Respond Project gets under way Loughrea will do well.

Note of Sympathy: On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the sympathy of the Board was extended to the relative of the late Mrs. Teresa Moran, St. Laurencesfields, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 17th day of February, 1996.

Chairperson.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/2/96/.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Cathaorileach.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin B.E., Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 8/1/96, were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Loughrea 1200: Comm. Morgan stated that there appears to be a lack of support for the Loughrea 1200 Celebration. After some discussion it was agreed that the Commissioners would meet in private on Monday next at 7/30 p.m. to discuss this matter.

Bypass Road: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Nelson stated that the N.R.A. has made provisions in the current year for the provision of a detailed design. The design will come before the Co. Co. members.

Town Flooding: Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that the residents of Bride Street are anxious that something be done to relieve the flooding in this area. Mr. Diskin stated that the flooding situation in town is under review and it is hoped to carry out what ever improvements that are possible. Comm. Morgan stated that the residents in Cross St. had contributed towards the cost of cleaning the stream in this area. Comm. Barrett stated that the Anglers and the Co. Co. had also contributed.

Housing: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Nelson stated that the allocation for repair of L.A. housing in the current year is #400,000.00. Mr. Nelson added that the vast majority of L.A. houses are in excellent repair and he wished to compliment the tenants for this. Comm. Loughnane referred to the various schemes which are available for housing and he felt that the public should be made more aware of these. Comm. Gunter-Nix felt that the application forms are too complicated for the elderly and she felt that if the applicant holds a medical card or is in receipt of an O.A.P. it should be sufficient for a disabled person's grant. Mr. Nelson stated that he will check out the forms.

Increase in Crime: Comm. Hynes stated that where 2 O.A.P are residing together and one of them is in receipt of Disability Benefit, they are not automatically entitled to free telephone rental. Comm. Hynes felt that this is wrong and he proposed that everyone over 66 and in receipt of the O.A.P. should get free telephone rental.

Conferences: It was agreed not to send delegates to the following -

1. L.A. Members Association Annual Conference in Letterkenny 11/12th April.
2. Housing and Partnership- A Living Countryside fixed for the Slieve

Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Down on 17/4/96.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:-

1. That Galway Co. Co. be asked to lower the high wall on the entrance to Bohercom from the east side of the town as a safety precaution.

Comm. Curley stated that the occupier is agreeable. AMended 1/3/96
Motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan and agreed.

2. That Galway Co. Co. be asked to secure the Protestant Church building so as to prevent trespassing day or night.

Motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney and agreed.

3. That Galway Co. Co. be asked when can we expect extra street lighting at both ends of our town. (Athenry Road and Dublin Road).

Motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Comm. Barrett referred to the inadequate lighting system in the town.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed to request an adequate lighting system for the town.

Hanley's Cross: Comm. Loughnane stated that a traffic hazard exists at the junction known as Hanley's Cross and he request that this be marked with delineators.

Pedestrian Crossing: Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she wished to thank the Co. Council for providing the pedestrian crossing at Main St. This had come in for a lot of favourable comment recently.

Noise Levels: Comm. Morgan referred to the annoyance caused by burglar alarms etc. sounding for hours, especially in the early hours of the morning and he asked that the Co. Council be asked to give the legal position on same. Mr. Nelson in reply stated that he will find out where the legal position can be found but he will not give the legal position.

Dangerous House at Bride St.:- Comm. Morgan stated that the Co. Co. had recently rendered safe a derelict house at Bride Street. The roof is now dangerous and requires immediate attention. The Town Clerk stated that he has already reported this to the Co. Council.

Cease Fire: The Chairman and members expressed their disappointment with the breaking of the Cease Fire relating to the troubles in the north.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the following:-

Rev. Br. Cyprian (Ryan) De La Salle College, Castletown, Co. Laois.

Christy McNamee Jnr., Moore Street.

Sean Hanrahan, Lakeside Park.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of March, 1996.

John M. D.
Cathaorileach

Minutes of proceedings at special meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 19/2/96.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Cathaorileach.

Members Present: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Norman Morgan, James Regan, Jimmy Curley, Brendan Donnellan, Pat Hynes.

Officials: John Crotty, Deputy Co. Engineer, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

The Chairman stated that this special meeting was convened for the purpose of considering proposals for the 1996 Urban Renewal Scheme. He welcomed Mr. Crotty to the meeting and asked him to outline the proposals for Loughrea.

Mr. Crotty explained that Loughrea was one of three towns in the county to be accepted under the Urban Renewal Scheme, Ballinasloe and Tuam being the other two. The scheme commenced in 1995 and the Government, with the help of EU funding, hopes to continue the scheme over the next 4 years with an average yearly budget of approximately #40,000.

The Government will provide 50% of the funds and the Co. Council and Town Commissioners will provide 25% each. The scheme commenced in 1995 with the wall around the Green. It is hoped to complete the Green area in 1996 and commence the development of Corry's Field. Mr. Crotty also mentioned the possibility of extending the public lighting along the promenade at the Long Point. Mr. Crotty referred to the Lisa McKnight Plan for Corry's Field, copies of which were distributed to each member and stated that the proposals for Corry's Field are more or less based on this plan. Mr. Crotty emphasised that the plan is not rigid and accepted that certain aspects of the plan are not acceptable to the Commissioners, such as the location of the pathways, too much interference with the lake shore etc. all of this can be reviewed when the work is being carried out.

Mr. Crotty informed the meeting that the proposals for the 4 years together with the costing should be with the Department. A local Architect is preparing sketch plans and with the approval of the Commissioners it is hoped to have the plans with the Department within the week. Mr. Crotty invited questions from the members.

A general discussion took place and it was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Curley to give permission to Mr. Crotty to submit the proposals to the Department for approval.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the ^v day of March, 1996.


Cathaorileach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/3/96.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Cathaorileach.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Congratulations: Comm. Donnellan proposed a vote of congratulations to Comm. Barrett and his fellow officers in the Anglers Association for organising a Peace March last Sunday, his one regret Comm. Donnellan stated was that more Commissioners were not present.

Minutes: Comm. Morgan referred the minutes of meeting held on the 12/2/96. He stated that he did not second the motion relating to the lowering of a boundary wall at Bohercam as this would lead to people trespassing on private property. The minutes were amended accordingly and were then signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Regan. The minutes of special meeting held on the 19/2/96 were also signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley.

Urban Renewal Schemes: Comm. Hynes expressed the opinion that these schemes should get more publicity.

Wall at Bohercam: Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that it was not possible to agree terms with the owner of the wall at Bohercam.

Protestant Church: Mr. Diskin stated that this matter is being dealt with through the Galway office.

Public Meeting - Loughrea 1200: In reply to Comm. Regan, the Chairman stated that the public meeting dealing with the proposed Loughrea 1200 called for later on this evening was not called by the Town Commissioners.

Housing Land Bank: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Nelson stated that 6 houses are under construction in Loughrea. Mr. Nelson stated that the land bank in Loughrea is sufficient for the immediate future, the Co. Council are drawing up a 3 year plan for the county. In areas where there is a need for housing, and Loughrea is one such area, adequate land banks will be acquired.

Comm. Hynes expressed the view that Home Improvement Grants should be brought back. Comm. Loughnane stated that the Repairs in Lieu Scheme covers most cases.

Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that houses are left unoccupied particularly in old housing schemes and she asked if the Co. Council would consider repossessing these. Mr. Nelson stated that if the number and location of these houses were supplied the Council would initiate proceedings to recover these houses. In reply to Comm. Loughnane, Mr. Nelson stated that a sum of #400,000 is allocated for housing repairs this year. Mr. Nelson added that he is preparing a report on housing for the Co. Council and he would like to present this report to the Council, being the housing

authority, before discussing it with any other body.

Bypass Road: In reply to Comm. Donnellan, Mr. Nelson stated that one would get the impression from reading the papers that there is a hold-up with regard to the bypass. This is not so, money is provided in the current year and work on the design is progressing very satisfactorily.

Noise Levels: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that the noise levels are controlled under the Environmental Protection Act.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was read to the meeting:-

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The Chamber of Commerce informed the meeting that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will commence after 12 o'clock mass. The members were invited to attend the viewing platform on Main Street.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Brendan Howlin T.D., Minister for the Environment stated in his letter of 31/1/96 that as it is not possible at this stage to indicate when the Loughrea Sewerage Scheme can be advanced, a meeting between the Minister and the Commissioners would not be appropriate at this time.

The members considered this reply most disappointing.

Comm. Morgan asked if planning applications are curtailed due to the inadequacy of the sewerage scheme. The Cathaorileach stated that he was in touch with the Minister's office and he stated that this had not emanated from that office. Mr. Nelson stated that there is no truth in the rumour. He assured the meeting that the Council is well aware of the position in Loughrea as is the Department and pointed out that the Co. Council is the authority with responsibility for this service.

After much discussion it was proposed by Comm. Barrett, seconded by Comm. Hynes and agreed to invite the 3 local Dail Members, the 3 M.E.Ps. and the 7 Area Co. Councillors to the next meeting and that water and sewerage be the only topics discussed at this meeting.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:

At the next meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose:-

a) "To have the toilets at the Westbridge removed."

Comm. Barrett seconded this motion.

Comm. Morgan said that he would have to propose a direct negative as he would not wish to see this facility removed and not replaced.

The motion was amended to read:-

"To have the toilets at the Westbridge relocated"

The amended motion was unanimously agreed.

b) "To have toilets erected at Corry's field beside the proposed carpark"
Seconded by Comm. Moloney and agreed.

Motions submitted by Comm. Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 11th March, 1996, I will propose:

a. "That Galway Co. Council be requested to erect signs which would prohibit motor vehicles using the archway on the Main St. end of King St., Loughrea and that a "Cul-De-Sac" sign be erected at the Barrack St. end of King St

which would allow delivery vehicles etc., as far as, but not through the archway."

No seconder for this motion.

b) "That Galway Co. Council be requested to lower the wall from McInerney's The Green, to the Westbridge, so as to allow people to see Loughrea's Medieval Town Moat, it being the only remaining town moat in Ireland"
No seconder for this motion.

c) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners inquire if the ancient Town Pound, east of St. Bridget's Well, Bohercam, is available and at what price, and that they consider purchasing and preserving same as one of the features of Old Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Loughnane and agreed.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:-

At the March meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose:-

a) "That a dog warden be appointed to the Loughrea Area."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and agreed.

b) "That two yellow lines be put down on Mount Carmel Crescent at its junction with Athenry Road."

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and agreed.

c) "That the litter bin at Mai Kelly's be replaced."

Motion seconded by Comm. Curley and agreed.

Street Plate Names: Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that he is contemplating putting up street plate names and he showed the meeting a sample of the proposed plates. The meeting welcomed the proposal and approved of the plates. Mr. Diskin asked should the name Mob Hill be used. No decision was taken.

April Meeting: As the second Monday in April is Easter Monday it was unanimously agreed to hold the meeting on Monday 15th April.

Congratulations: Comm. Regan proposed a vote of congratulations to Mr. Martin Burke on his selection to represent Ireland as a chef recently in England

Thanks: Comm. Moloney proposed a vote of thanks to Sean Cleary and Sheila Stratford on their success in providing three containers of goods for Bosnia.

Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of

1. John Duffy, Main Street.

2. Thomas (Sharkey) Broderick, The Hill.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 15 day of April, 1996.

Alm B O
Cathaorileach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 15/4/96.

Cathaorileach: Comm. Oliver Barrett.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Others: Mr. Paul Connaughton, T.D., Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Cllrs. Jimmy McClearn, Willie Burke, Michael Regan, Michael Fahy,

Apologies: John Diskin, Town Engineer, Mark Killalea, M.E.P., Joe McCartan, M.E.P., Pat Gallagher, M.E.P.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minute Silence: Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Comm. Hynes proposed that one minute silence be observed as a mark of respect to the late Tony Dervan, a former Chairman of the Board. This was seconded by Comm. Curley. Members and officials present paid tribute to late Mr. Dervan.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan, the minutes of the last meeting held on the 11/3/96 were adopted and signed as correct.

Abstract of Accounts: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the Abstract of Accounts for 1995 year were noted.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: The Cathaorileach welcomed the various public representatives to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He explained that the purpose of their visit is to try to expedite the provision of a new sewerage treatment works for Loughrea. Deputy Treacy stated that he and his two Dail colleagues had tried without success to intercede with the Minister. The plans are with the Department for some time but has not qualified for funding. Cllr. Burke stated that he is familiar with the situation and he cannot accept the arrogance of the Minister in not meeting a deputation. He suggested having it on the agenda for a Co. Council meeting. Comm. Loughnane remarked that it suits the Minister for the members to be talking to themselves. Loughrea is on the top of the list but was overlooked by the Minister. Comm. Regan stated that it is possible that planning applications will be refused because of inadequate sewerage facilities. Cllr. McClearn stated that it is unfortunate that Loughrea does not qualify under the Cohesion Fund but it should keep the pressure on. He added that this is the first time that all public representatives for the area had come together and he felt that there should be a meeting such as this once a year. Cllr. Fahy stated that there is an urgent need for a new sewerage scheme in Loughrea. He felt that the Minister should come down to a meeting of Galway Co. Co. The matter should be put on the agenda for the next Co. Co. Council meeting and a written commitment got from the Minister. Deputy Connaughton stated that he had put on as much pressure as possible

to get the Minister to receive a deputation. The best he could come up with is a meeting with senior officials in the Department, this he could arrange within a matter of weeks.

Mr. Nelson stressed that the Co. Council is the Authority responsible for this matter. He stated that the Galway City situation is different from Loughrea and added that the EU is paying the money and also calling the tune. Mr. Nelson stated that work to the tune of #100,000 will be carried out to Loughrea Water & Sewerage Schemes in the current year and this will help to improve the water pressure in addition to getting a photographic report on the sewerage pipe lines.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan it was unanimously agreed to request Galway Co. Council to seek a meeting with senior officials in the Dept. of the Environment and that two Town Commissioners be included in the deputation.

It was proposed by Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Curley and unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should represent the Board on this deputation.

It was also agreed that the three M.E.P. be advised of this proposal. The Dail Representatives, the Co. Councillors and Comm. Loughnane excused themselves from the meeting and left.

Amenity Development Group: On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Curley it was decided that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should represent the Board on the Amenity Development Group.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was read to the meeting.

1. Letter from Galway Co. Council dated 11/3/96 dealing with:-
 - a) "Loughrea 1200" If this takes place any definite requests will be considered in the usual way.
 - b) Car Park at Barrack St. will be surface dressed and lined in the next few months.
 - c) Public Lighting in "The Walk" is considered adequate.
 - d) A safety railing will be erected between "The Walk" and the town moat immediately inside its entrance from the Station Road.
 - e) Funds are not available to pipe a roadside drain at Cosmona in 1996. It will be included in the 1997 estimates.
 - f) Dangerous Wall at Bohercom: Galway Co. Council has served notice on the owner that this wall is dangerous. The owner would give this ground if the Council would rebuild his boundary wall at a cost of #4,000. It is not recommended to incur this expenditure for such a small corner of ground.
 - g) Route Lighting: The N.R.A. has not provided funding for National Route Lighting in 1996.
 - h) Public Lighting: More precise details are required as to where it is felt that existing street lighting is inadequate in Loughrea. Each location can then be assessed and a priority list made out. Comm. Curley referred to the dangerous wall at Bohercom and said that

in view of the amount of traffic now using this road he thought that #4,000 was not too high a figure. Comm. Morgan supported this view and felt that the Co. Council should be asked to reconsider the matter.

Ceasefire in North: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan it was unanimously agreed to support the following resolution submitted by Tuam T.C.:-

"That Tuam T.C. strongly support the request to reinstate the ceasefire from the Irish and British Governments also to write to Gerry Adams and ask him to use his influence to get the ceasefire re-instated and that this motion be circulated to all Local Authorities throughout the country

Sewerage Charges: A letter from Mr. Tom Fahy, Sec. Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, querying the proposed sewerage charges for Loughrea was read to the meeting.

It was agreed that this letter should be directed to Galway Co. Council.

The Board decided not to send delegates to the following conferences:

1. General Council of County Councils Annual Conference in Galway on 23/25th May, 1966.
2. Border Regional Authority National Conference 1966 in The Allingham Hotel, Bundoran on 14/15th June, 1996.
3. National Conference on Environmental Planning and Control in the Imperial Hotel, Cork on 9/11th May, 1996.
4. Local Administration and the Media in Hotel Westport on June 13/14th.

Motions:- Comm. Regan referred to the fact that motions were submitted by Comms. Hynes and Comm. Morgan for this meeting despite the fact that it was agreed that only Loughrea sewerage and water problems would be discussed. Comm. Regan felt that this was unfair to other members and he proposed that these motions be deferred to the next meeting. This was seconded by Comm. Curley. Comm. Morgan proposed that the motions be considered and was seconded by Comm. Hynes. Comm.. Morgan's proposal was put to the meeting and resulted as follows:-

For. Comms. Morgan and Hynes.

Against: Comms. Regan, Curley, Donnellan and Nix.

The Chairman declared Comm. Morgan's proposal lost.

Comm. Moloney suggested that a special meeting might be held to discuss these motions. After some discussion Comm. Moloney withdrew this suggestion.

Sight Distance at Junctions: Comm. Donnellan stated that motorists have a very poor view on the exit from the Boys' N.S. at Cross St. and from Pigotts St. onto Main Street and he asked if mirrors could be erected at these junctions. Comm. Donnellan also request that a litter bin be provided at the opening to the lake on the Gort Road. The Town Clerk stated that he would take these matters up with the Town Engineer.

Availability of Doctors at Weekend: Comm. Moloney stated that she has received complaints regarding the method of contacting doctors on duty at week-ends. Comm. Curley stated that the local doctors meet on a regular basis and he suggested that this might be discussed with them. It was agreed that the Cathaorileach and Comm. Moloney would arrange to meet the local doctors.

Dumping at Cahernagarry/Kincullia Road: Comm. Moloney stated that wholesale dumping is taking place on the Cahernagarry/Kincullia road and she asked if something could be done about it.

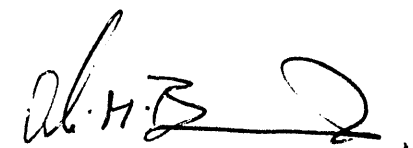
Parking at Bride Street: Comm. Gunter-Nix asked if the double yellow line outside the Credit Union at Bride Street could be renewed.

Votes of sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:-

1. The Carney family, Cosmona, on the death of their brother Brendan.
2. The Kenny family, Athenry Road on the death of their father Josie.
3. Mrs. Cooney, Westbridge on the death of her sister-in-law.

This concluded the business of the Board.

Dated this the 13th day of May, 1996.


Cathaorileach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/5/96.

Cathaoirleach: An Comhairleoir Comm. Oliver Barrett.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan,

Officials: Messers T. Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, A. Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of meeting held on the 15/4/96 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley.

Comm. Hynes referred to the fact that he had submitted 3 motions that are not listed on the agenda while 3 motions submitted for the April meeting are. The Chairman pointed out that the April meeting had ruled that motions submitted for the April meeting were in conflict with a decision taken at the March meeting and all motions were deferred to the May meeting. As each member is only entitled to 3 motions per meeting, Comm. Hynes had already submitted his full complement of motions. Comm. Morgan stated that Comm. Hynes and himself had each submitted 3 motions for the April meeting, he had forgotten about the decision taken at the March meeting. He accepted the decision taken at the April meeting and stated that he felt the Town Clerk had no choice but to list the motions deferred from the previous meeting.

The Town Clerk stated that the facts are as stated by Comm. Morgan and he wished to refute any suggestion of discrimination.

Views at Street Junctions: Comm. Donnellan referred to his suggestion at the previous meeting regarding the erection of viewing mirrors at specific junctions and he asked the Town Engineer for his comments. Mr. Diskin in reply stated that the Co. Council could have difficulty erecting viewing mirrors, they are not authorised signs and he will not be recommending erection of same.

Dangerous Wall at Bohercam: In reply to Comms. Morgan and Curley, Mr. Diskin stated that a dangerous structure notice was served on the owner of the dangerous wall at Bohercam and the responsibility of repairing this wall rests with the owner.

Apology: Mr. Michael Kitt T.D. in his letter of the 9/5/96 apologised for not attending the previous meeting explaining that the invitation never actually reached him.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: M.E.Ps Pat The Cope Gallagher and Joe McCartin each informed the Board that they had made representation to Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D. Minister for the Environment, regarding the proposed sewerage scheme for Loughrea.

Toilets: The Co. Council in its letter dated 24/4/96 stated that it will consider Corry's Field as a location for toilets should funding become available.

National Route Lighting: The meeting was informed by Mr. B. Howlin, T.D., Minister for the Environment that public lighting on national primary routes is now the primary responsibility of the National Roads Authority and he had referred the request to have the public lighting on the Athenry Road extended, to the N.R.A.

Reform of A.M.A.I.: Proposals from Leixlip Town Commissioners for the reform of A.M.A.I. was deferred to the next meeting.

Conferences: It was unanimously agreed to send delegates to the following:

1. Convention on Quality in Local Government on Thursday & Friday June 6th & 7th. Comm. Pat Hynes.
2. "The Great Famine 1845-1850" at the Teagasc Centre, Athenry on Saturday May 18th. Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix and Comm. Teresa Moloney.

Expenses: Expenses for attending a meeting of the A.M.A.I. in Kinsale on the 23/3/96 for Comm. Loughnane were approved on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett. Mr. Kavanagh pointed out that prior consent should have been sought.

Road Traffic (Speed Limits) County Galway By-Laws 1996: Mr. Kavanagh informed the meeting that the proposed Draft By-Laws do not effect the town of Loughrea.

Motions submitted by Comm. Hynes:-

- a) "That Galway Co. Council withdraw its decision to impose sewerage Charges."

Motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Comm. Barrett stated that he opposed this motion as he felt that funding must be forthcoming towards the cost of the new scheme. Comm. Gunter-Nix accepted that charges are necessary until such time as alternative funding is provided for Local Government.

Mr. Kavanagh stated that books must be balanced.

On the advice of Mr. Kavanagh, the Chairman ruled the motion out of order.

- b) "That this Board congratulate Joe McDonagh on his election as President Elect of the Gaelic Athletic Association."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously.

Comm. Morgan proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Boothman as he had many visits to Galway during his term of office.

- c) "That the Irish Government intensifies it's campaign to promote the sale of Irish Beef worldwide in order to prevent the loss of jobs in the beef and associated industries."

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

- a) "That a recommendation be made to the Minister for the Environment to put a hold on the newly introduced Sewerage Charges; that an explanation be given for same; and that any such charges be standardised nationwide."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney.

b) "That Galway Co. Council be requested to place on their list of priorities, a Pedestrian Crossing at the Westbridge, Loughrea; the number of vehicles per day passing making it highly dangerous and often times impossible for people to cross the public road in this area"
Motion seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously.

c) "That the Garda Siochana be requested to enforce the speed limit law in Loughrea Town, & to discourage those drivers who are driving through the town at over 50 miles per hour, thereby putting pedestrians and other drivers in great danger."
Motion seconded by Comm. Curley and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:-

a) "That we denounce the behaviour of the small number of people who caused a disturbance in town recently."
Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that incidences like this gives a town a bad name. Comm. Barrett seconded the motion and cited an incident that occurred in a local business premises during the week. Comm. Hynes remarked that there are not sufficient gardai available.

b) "That a request be sent to the Minister for Social Welfare to extend the Student Summer Jobs Scheme to include all 18 year old students whether they are in second or third level education."
Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously.

c) "That public lighting be provided in the new Chestnut Grove Estate at Cross Street."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.
The Town Clerk pointed out that this estate is not taken in charge by the Co. Council.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:-

a) "I propose that Galway County Council change the ruling re purchase of graves."
Comm. Regan stated that he was approached by a number of people who wanted to purchase their graves but the Council will not sell graves until such time as they are needed.
Mr. Kavanagh stated that the Co. Council is having difficulty in getting land for graveyards and local communities are being called on to assist in providing same.
The motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

b) "I will propose that Galway Co. Council put a path between the town and Cahernaun."
Comm. Barrett seconded this motion.
Mr. Diskin stated that this work would depend on money being available. Comm. Regan stated that Co. Councillors are prepared to provide N.O.M. money for this work. Comms. Regan, Barrett and Moloney agreed to contact their respective party Councillors to see what monies they are prepared to make available.

c) "I propose that Loughrea Town Commissioners write to the Garda Superintendent to do something about the speed of traffic on the Gort Road."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

Dalystown House: Comm. Morgan informed the meeting that Dalystown House was bulldozed last Saturday and Sunday. This was done despite the fact that the building was subject to a Preservation Order. Comm. Morgan condemned this act and said that the people who had carried out this work should be made replace each stone. Comm. Morgan passed on some photographs which he had to Mr. Kavanagh.

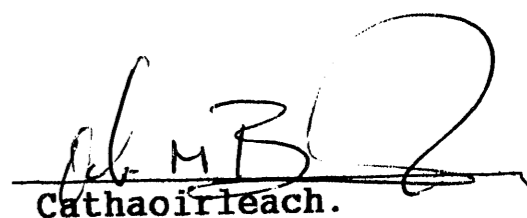
St. Brendan's Home: Comm. Hynes proposed that the new access road at St. Brendan's Home should be opened to the public.
This was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Dog Warden: In reply to Comm. Donnellan, Mr. Kavanagh stated that the Loughrea area is covered by the dog warden from Tuam.

National League Winners: Comm. Curley congratulated Galway on winning the National Hurling league and the two local panel members, Nigel Shaughnessy and Gregory Kennedy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of June, 1996.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/6/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Oliver Barrett.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Sympathy: Before the business of the meeting was discussed, the Chairman extended the sympathy of the Board to the widow and family of the late Tom Callanan, Boherduff who was killed in a car accident last Friday. Mr. Callanan who had been Chairman of the Galway Hurling Board, had also been very active in many other organisations in the locality. Members and officials present associated themselves with the message of sympathy. The sympathy of the Board was also extended to the relatives of the following:

Patrick Finnerty, Mount Carmel Crescent, Loughrea.

Jack Forde, Athenry Road, Loughrea.

Mary Coy, Moore Street, Loughrea.

Vincent Connolly, Kelly's Street, Loughrea.

Rev. Mons. E. Hynes, Lake Road, Loughrea.

Mrs. Cristina McNamara, Barrack Street, Loughrea.

Mrs. N. Finnerty, Ballybroder, Loughrea.

Dr. Courtney, Ballinasloe.

Mr. Morgan, Dublin. (Father of Mrs. Ann Gilchreest, Cahercrea.)

Sewerage Charges: Comm. Loughnane stated that he had read after the last meeting that there were no objections by the Councillors when the Co. Council had approved of new sewerage charges. He wished to refute this rumour. Comm. Loughnane also stated that he was disappointed that the local Dail Representatives had failed to secure a meeting with the Minister for the Environment adding that this is the first time that a Minister had refused to meet a deputation. Comm. Barrett stated that he had contacted the Minister's office and the reply was that a meeting at this time would serve no purpose. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Deputy Connaughton had recently informed him that a meeting will take place shortly between Department Officials, representatives of Galway Co. Council and representatives of the Loughrea Town Commissioners.

Caheronaun Path: Comms. Barrett, Moloney and Regan stated the local County Councillors are prepared to provide N.O.M. monies towards the provision of a path from Bride St. to Caheronaun.

Mr. Diskin stated that if there is a definite proposal he would examine it but pointed out that money is not provided in this year's estimates.

It was agreed to request the Co. Council to have this matter on the agenda at the next meeting of the Councillors for the Loughrea area.

Brendan's Home: In reply to Comm. Hynes, the Town Clerk stated that he has as yet received a reply from the Western Health Board with regard to the new access road to St. Brendan's Home public.

Student Summer Job Scheme: The Dept. of Social Welfare in its letter of the 28/5/96 set out the purpose of this scheme and why it felt that second level student be precluded from taking part in these schemes. Comm. Gunter-Nix felt that it was deplorable that seconded level students are being directed to the Dole Office and said that the Department should have a rethink on the matter.

Comm. Barrett took issue with Comm. Hynes over a letter which Comm. Hynes had prepared for last month's meeting. Comm. Barrett alleged that Comm. Hynes had tried to take credit for Comm. Gunter-Nix's resolution. Comm. Hynes denied the allegation and stated that he often prepares his statements in advance.

Traffic Route Lighting: In reply to the Board's request for improved traffic route lighting in the western end of town, the N.R.A. in its letter of the 31/5/96 stated that it had recently requested Galway Co. Council to submit a list of priority locations and the Board's request will be considered on receipt of the Council's report. Comm. Loughnane enquired as to the position with regard to the eastern end of the town. Comm. Barrett stated that he has letters from two of the industries in Greeneenagh and he is awaiting letters from the other two. It was decided to forward these letters to the Council and to request the Council to include Loughrea in its list.

Town Twinning: Correspondence from Ireland West Tourism regarding twinning with a town in southern Rennes was read to the meeting. On the proposal of Comm. Morgan it was decided to decline the invitation and to suggest that Ireland West contact the Chamber of Commerce.

The following replies from Galway Co. Council were considered:-

1. The lowering of the wall at Bohercom is a matter for the landowner.
2. The erection of mirrors at junctions is not recommended as they are not approved signs.
Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer is to have a look at these junctions.
3. The double yellow lines at Bride St. have been renewed.
4. Dog Warden: Interviews for this post to be held shortly.
5. Purchase of Grave Plots: The Co. Council will not change its present policy of only selling plots when a death has occurred.
Mr. Nelson outline the difficulty which the Council is experiencing in obtaining suitable land for burial grounds and stressed that the Council will meet interested groups such as Community/Parish Councils half way.

Comm. Loughnane excused himself from the meeting.

Speed Limits: An acknowledgement of recommendations made to Garda Siochana was read.

Reform of A.M.A.I.: Proposals for the reform of the A.M.A.I. submitted by Leixlip T. C. were marked read on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Annual Meeting: The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Annual Meeting must be held within 14 days of the anniversary of the first meeting. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting on July 1st and to hold the July monthly meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting.

Revision of Remuneration: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan revision of remuneration as set out in Circular letters EL 5/96 of the 16/5/96 and EL 6/96 of the 28/5/96, in so far as they relate to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners, was approved.

Motions submitted by Comm. Regan.
I will propose at our June meeting that:-

a) "An area be made available for buses to pull in on the Main Street."

This was seconded by Comm. Morgan and the Town Engineer was requested to investigate same.

b) "That no parking would be allowed on the left hand side of Railway Road" This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.
It was decided to forward this request to the Co. Council with a request that parking would not be allowed on western side of this roadway between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

c) "That two concrete pieces at Railway track at Cosmona be removed." This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan and it was decided to request Iarnrod Eireann to carry out this work.

Conferences: It was unanimously agreed not to send delegates to the following conferences:-

1. Environmental Recognition in Ballybunion on July 5th 6th & 7th, 1996.
2. Border Regional Authority in Bundoran on 14th & 15th June, 1996.

Expenses: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to pay Comm. Hynes for attending Convention on quality in Local Government in Dublin on June 6th & 7th.
Expenses claimed by Comm. Loughnane for attending a meeting of the A.M.A.I. in Naas on the 18/5/96 was deferred to enable Comm. Loughnane to give a report of the meeting.
Comm. Gunter-Nix made the point that members attending conferences should report back to a full meeting of the Board. She and Comm. Moloney presented each member with an synopsis of the conference on "The Great Famine 1845-1850" which they had attended in Athenry. Comm. Hynes agreed to present his report on "Quality in Local Government".

Rent Scheme: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that he proposed to implement a rent scheme for the house owned by Loughrea Town Commissioners similar to the one in operation by Galway Co. Council.

Old Pound: In reply to Comm. Morgan the Town Clerk stated that he had made enquiries regarding the purchase of the site of the old pound at Bride St. but had got no feed back.

Athletic Club: The Cathaoirleach invited the members and officials to visit the grounds of the Athletic Club at Bushfield on Sunday next after 12 noon mass. The Cathaoirleach praise the work of the members of the Athletic Club in getting their grounds into such an excellent amenity. Comm. Hynes proposed that the Athletic should get a substantial sum from the National Lottery, this was seconded by Comm. Morgan.
The Town Clerk asked if this club had in fact applied to the National Lottery for funding. The motion was deferred pending confirmation or otherwise of this.

Vacant L.A. Houses: Comm. Gunter-Nix asked if anything had been done about repossessing vacant local authority houses. Mr. Nelson stated that he would have to check this out.

FAS Schemes: In reply to Comm. Moloney the Town Clerk stated that the continuation of the FAS Scheme in the G.A.A. Grounds is a matter for FAS.

Emergency Number: Comm. Morgan stated that there should be an emergency number that one could ring if one saw unauthorised work being carried out outside normal hours. Comm. Barrett supported this suggestion.
Mr. Nelson suggested submitting this suggestion to Galway Co. Council as it is the planning authority for the area.

Congratulations: Comm. Donnellan congratulated Fr. Paul Burke on his recent ordination. Comm. Donnellan added that he felt that the Town Commissioners as a body should attend the first mass of people ordained in the town.

Welcome: Comm. Morgan welcome Fr. Finnian Monaghan, O.D.C. back home to Loughrea and proposed a vote of congratulations to him on his appointment as Prior of the Carmelite Abbey in Loughrea.
Comm. Moloney seconded this proposal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 1st day of July, 1996.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 1/7/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Oliver Barrett.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, James Regan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Thomas Kavanagh Acting Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Votes of Sympathy: Before the business of the meeting was discussed the Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of Veronica Guerin and Det. Garda Gerry McCabe, two people who were murdered while doing their duty. The meeting observed 1 minutes silence as a mark of respect.

The sympathy of the Board was also extended to the following:-

The Keane family, Clostoken on the death of John Keane.
Fr. Damien Nolan, O.D.C. on the death of his brother.
Garda Kieran McNamara, Garrybreeda, on the death of his brother.
Mrs. Criss Healy, Galway Road on the death of her mother.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Comm. Oliver Barrett thanked his fellow Commissioners, Board Officials and representatives of the media for their help and co-operation during the year. He then invited proposals for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Election of Chairperson: Comm. James Regan was proposed by Comm. Donnellan and seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix.
Comm. Morgan stated that he felt that the Cathaoirleach should be elected in the same sequence as the public had elected the Commissioners and he accordingly proposed Comm. James Curley. Comm. Moloney seconded.
Comm. Hynes stated that he agreed with Comm. Morgan and he felt it is unfair to operate a system that excludes 3 members from becoming Cathaoirleach. Comm. Curley after thanking his proposer and seconder withdrew his name. Comm. Regan was then declared elected.
Comm. Regan thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that he would make the bypass and Loughrea sewerage his priority.

Election of Vice-Chairperson: Comm. Curley was proposed by Comm. Barrett and seconded by Comm. Donnellan.
Comm. Moloney was proposed by Comm. Hynes and seconded by Comm. Morgan.
Comm. Moloney thanked her proposer and seconder and withdrew.
Comm. Curley was then declared elected.
Comm. Curley thanked his proposer and seconder.

Comm. Gunter-Nix thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for the efficiency and courtesy which he had shown during the year.
Mr. Kavanagh associated himself with these remarks.

This concluded the business of the Annual Meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of Sept., 1996: James Regan Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 1/7/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Thomas Kavanagh Acting Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes of meeting held on the 10/6/96 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix.

Caheronaun Path: Comm. Loughnane stated that he had indicated at the last meeting that he is prepared to make #1,000 of N.O.M. money available towards the cost of providing a path from Bride Street to Caheronaun and he felt that this should have got mention in the minutes. Comm. Regan stated that the Fianna Fail Co. Councillors also stated that they are prepared to provide #1,000 each towards this work. Comms. Moloney and Barrett stated that the Co. Councillors from their respective political parties are prepared to contribute towards this work but the Commissioners are not in a position to state how much as this would depend on other commitments.

The Town Clerk stated that his understanding was that the Commissioners were to request the Co. Council to have the matter on the agenda for the next area meeting of the Loughrea Co. Councillors at which time the Councillors could give a definite commitment.

New Roadway at St. Brendan's Home: In reply to Comm. Hynes the Town Clerk stated that he had no further information on the new roadway at St. Brendan's Home.

Parking of Buses: Mr. Diskin stated that he had looked at the bus stops in Loughrea. He queried the wisdom of requesting bus bays on the Main St. for a problem that arises mainly at weekends, as it would be illegal to park in the bays at any time. He asked if an alternative stop could be considered. Comm. Loughnane agreed that the problem is mainly on Sunday evenings.

Loughrea Sewerage Schemes: In reply to Comm. Loughnane the Town Clerk stated that Deputy Connaughton had not as yet arranged a meeting with officials of the Department of the Environment to discuss the delay in providing a new sewerage scheme for Loughrea.

Expenses: On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed to pay Comm. Loughnane his expenses for attending a meeting of A.M.A.I. in Naas on the 18/5/96.

Conference On Quality in Local Government: Comm. Hynes presented his report of the conference on quality in L.G. which he had attended on June 6th & 7th last.

A .M.A.I. Annual Conference: The meeting was informed that annual conference this year will be held in Arklow on 16th-19th Sept. 1996, and that motions should be submitted before June 28th. On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Curley it was agreed that motions should be handed to the Town Clerk before the end of the week.

The Town Clerk pointed out that there will be a shortfall in the money provided for expenses. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed that there should be no over expenditure. It was agreed to review the question of expenses at the September meeting. Comm. Moloney proposed that delegates should present a written synopsis of the meeting. This was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Motion from Ballyshannon T.C.: On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Donnellan it was agreed to support the following resolution from Ballyshannon T.C.

"That the Ballyshannon T.C. call on the Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications to review the law relating to the E.S.B. and the current situation, whereby local authorities are charged by the E.S.B. for the undergrounding and upgrading of their network."

Motion from Nenagh U.D.C.: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed to support the following resolution.

"That Nenagh U.D.C. seek the support of all local authorities in supporting Mrs. Nora Owen, T.D., Minister for Justice, in her efforts to eradicate the drugs scourge which is rampant in Ireland."

Letter of Thanks: Fr. Finian Monahan O.D.C. in his letter of the 21st June thanked the Commissioners for their vote of congratulations and welcome home!

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan: At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners on Monday 1st July 1996, I will propose:

a) "That a recommendation be sent to Galway Co. Council to include in their programme of improvements, the tarmacadaming of the footpaths leading to the North Mound in The Walk, Loughrea and that seats be provided along the main Walk on the North side of same."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

b) "That Galway Co. Council be requested to consider the possibility of narrowing the excessively wide footpaths opposite the Cathedral and Teagasc Building, Barrack St., on the east side of Moore St., and on the north side of Dunkellin St., if such would be deemed to help the flow of traffic."

Comm. Barrett seconded this motion.

Mr. Diskin was asked to investigate this proposal and also to investigate the possibility of providing bus stops in Dunkellin St. if these improvements were carried out.

c) "That a recommendation be sent to the Board of Works, Galway to either sell or rent their house which has been unoccupied for several years, at Cuscorrig Crescent, Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley: At the next meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose:-

a) "To ask Galway Co. Council about the maintenance of Mount Pleasant Graveyard - i.e. Cutting of grass; provision of water and unlocking main gate for a few hours daily during the summer months."

Comm. Donnellan seconded this motion which was passed unanimously. Comm. Regan informed the meeting that the Masonbrook G.W.Sch. will hold a special meeting to consider giving a supply of water at the graveyard. Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that the Co. Council had provided a skip for the disposal of old wreaths etc. in the graveyard for this week and he has under consideration the provision of an area where people can dispose of waste material arising from burials.

b) "To ask Galway Co. Council to remove the sign currently at Mount Carmel Road, which detours heavy vehicles across Abbey Terrace and replace it in a position to detour the traffic via Mt. Carmel Crescent". This motion was referred to Mr. Diskin for his attention.

c) "To ask Galway Co. Council what is the current position with regard to the Loughrea Bypass."

Mr. Kavanagh stated that good progress is being made by the design team, it will be presented at a meeting of the Loughrea Area Councillors and it will be available for discussion.

Comm. Donnellan asked if each member could get of a copy of the new plan

Planning Permission: Comm. Barrett stated that he understood a planning application for oil tanks near the Loughrea river is under consideration and he felt that the Town Commissioners should object to this. The Town Clerk pointed out that it would not be appropriate for the Town Commissioners as a Body to interfere in matters such as this but it is open to any individual to object if they so choose. Mr. Kavanagh concurred with what the Town Clerk said.

Use of The Walk: Mr. Diskin stated that an approach was made to allow contractors to use The Walk while carrying out improvement to a building on the Main Street and he asked what were the feeling of the meeting.

The matter received a mixed feeling from the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 9th day of September, 1996.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/9/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Loughnane, the minutes of the following meetings were adopted and signed as correct.

Annual Meeting held on the 1/7/96.

Monthly Meeting held on the 1/7/96.

A.M.A.I. Executive Meeting: Comm. Loughnane gave a report on the Executive Meeting of the A.M.A.I. held in Naas on the 18/5/96. The members welcomed the news that the A.M.A.I. are to issue a news letter

Path to Caheronaun: Comm. Loughnane stated that this was discussed at a meeting of the Loughrea Electoral Area Councillors at which meeting, the point was made that no written approach was made to the councillors for funding. On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Barrett the Town Clerk was asked to write to each Loughrea area councillors requesting a contribution of \$1,000 from each of them.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: In reply to Comm. Curley, Mr. Nelson stated that a Principal Officer in the Dept. of the Environment had received a deputation consisting of members of Galway Co. Council and Loughrea Town Commissioners. This officer had suggested that the project be considered on a staged basis - the treatment plant to be considered in the first stage and the drainage system under the second stage. Mr. Nelson stated that while the Council had always considered that both are necessary, it is now looking at this second proposal. Comm. Loughnane suggested that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Deputation: The Chairman welcomed a deputation consisting of Mary Quinn, Carmel Garrett and Pat Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney as spokesman for the group, stated that they represent the "Concerned People of the Westend" and they came to voice their opinion against a planning application by Katesan Ltd for a fast-food outlet at the Gort Road junction. This application, should it be successful, would be an infringement of the social and environmental life of the area Mr. Sweeney claimed and added that they have 1,200 signatures to support their claim. Mr. Sweeney thanked the meeting for receiving them. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to the County Secretary enclosing a copy of this minute.

Comm. Moloney excused herself and left to attend another meeting.

Amenity Group: The meeting received the following members of the Loughrea Amenity Development Committee - Rosie Fahy; Ursula Mooney; Gerry Mooney. Ms. Mooney thanked the meeting for receiving them and stated that people were invited to submit suggestions as to how they would like to see the Long Point area developed. Together with the help of Mr. John Diskin, Town Engineer, plans for the improvement of the area were drawn up and these are now submitted for the Commissioners approval. It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Invitation: A letter from Loughrea Civil Defence to Loughrea Town Commissioners inviting them to the official opening and blessing of their new Headquarters at the Temperance Hall, Loughrea on Friday, September, 13th 1996 at 7.00 p.m. was read to the meeting.

Parking on Station Road: The Co. Council in its letter of the 27/8/96 stated that it is not in favour of dis-allowing parking on the western side of the Station Road.

The Council also stated in this letter that the recommendation regarding the provision of an emergency telephone number to report unauthorised development and the extension of traffic route lighting on the N6, have been referred to the Planning and Road Design Sections respectively. Comm. Loughnane suggested the provision of a continuous white line on both approaches to the town on the N6. It was agreed to ask Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer, to look at same.

Access Facilities at St. Brendan's Home: The Western Health Board stated in its letter of the 22/7/96 stated that both the new and the old access roads are in use at St. Brendan's Home. The use of both roads will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

House at 52 Cuscarrig Crescent: The Office of Public Works stated that it is their intention to sell this house but they are prevented from doing so at present due to a discrepancy in the title.

Conferences: The Town Clerk stated that he has received notification of a number of forthcoming conferences but pointed out that the money provided for attending these is exhausted. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan it was agreed not to send delegates to any conference with the exception of the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I.

People of the Year Awards: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Loughnane it was decided to nominate Michelle Smyth for a "People of the Year Award."

Auditor's Report: Mr. Nelson presented the 1995 Auditor's Report to the meeting. Mr. Nelson stated that the report was satisfactory. In reply to Comm. Morgan it was agreed that anyone wishing to get a copy of this report could get same at the Town Clerk's office.

Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I.: The meeting was informed that this conference will take place in Arklow on Sept. 17th, 18th & 19th. The balance left to meet expenses is \$500 approx. less whatever expenses that are claimed by the 2 members who had travelled on a deputation to Dublin. The two delegates agreed to travel for whatever funds that are left. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that under Section 64 of the Local

Government Act, 1994, the A.M.A.I. will be responsible for the delegates expenses with effect from 1/1/97. The membership fee will increase from £150 to £250.

Reports: Discussion on the following Reports was deferred to the next meeting: (i) Towards Cohesive Local Government Town & County; (ii) Financing of Local Government in Ireland.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 9th Sept., 1996, I will propose that a recommendation be sent to Galway County Council:

a) "To remove the tree entirely and to move the two sign posts to the edge of the footpath at the entrance to St. Ita's N.S. Cross St., the aforesaid items being an obstruction, having reduced the use of the footpath to half of its original depth."

b) "To acquire the old railway roadway from the railway crossing, Cosmona, to Bride St., and to provide thereon a link road so as to remove the necessity of all traffic from the north being diverted through the five-road junction at Westbridge, Loughrea; and that said link road be the principal road across the proposed by-pass and that the present road at Cosmona be diverted into this proposed link road so as to eliminate the necessity of erecting a large embankment close to residences at Cosmona."

c) "That the iron sewer ventilation pole at Cross St., Loughrea, which is covered with rust, be cleaned and painted and maintained in future on a regular basis, so as to remove its unsightliness and the necessity of having to replace same due to rust damage."

There was no seconder for motions (a) and (b). Motion (c) was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

St. Brendan's Credit Union: Comm. Morgan stated that the local Credit Union is about to celebrate its 30th Anniversary and he proposed that it be presented with a scroll to mark the occasion. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett. It was agreed that Comm. Morgan would liaise with the Town Clerk with regarding to the wording of the scroll.

Congratulations: Votes of congratulations were passed with the following:-

1. The Galway U/21 hurlers on winning the All-Ireland Championship and in particular the local representatives, Team Manager Cyril Farrell and team members, Gregory Kennedy; Vinnie Maher; Nigel Murray.
2. Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams who won both national titles at the Community Games.
3. Fr. Bernard Cuffe, O.D.C. on celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his ordination.

Votes of sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following

1. The Reilly family Galway Road on the death of Richard Reilly.
2. Michael Conway, Lake Road on the death of his son Brian.
3. Maureen Conway, Lake Road on the death of her husband Paddy.
4. The Robinson family, The Hill, on the death of Paddy Robinson.
5. The Quirke family, Caherlavine on the death of Dinny Quirke.
6. The relatives of the late William Gaffney, Barrack Street.
7. The Wolfe family, Athenry Road on the death of Fr. Benno Wolfe.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of October, 1996.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/10/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

In accordance with Sections 9 & 10 of the County & City Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, Mr. Nelson presented the Estimates for 1997 Year. The Estimates as presented by Mr. Nelson proposed a rate of ~~a rate of~~ 147.87 pence in the £ for 1997 as compared to a rate of 139.15 pence in the £ for 1996. The amount demanded is £23,660.

The following was proposed by Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously:-

- i) That the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/97 as set forth at A, B & C on the Form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.
- ii) That the Demand be made on Galway Co. Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of £23,660.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/97 and that the Form of Demand be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

The Form of Estimate and the Form of Demand were both signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of November, 1996.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/10/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 9/9/96 were adopted and signed as correct.

Caheronaun Path: The Town Clerk stated that Cllrs. Matt Loughnane and Willie Burke had confirmed in writing that they are prepared to provide \$1,000 towards the provision of a path to Caheronaun. Cllr. Burke stated that his contribution will be in 1997 as his 1996 allocation is expended. Comms. Morgan and Hynes expressed disappointment that only 2 of the 7 Councillors had replied in writing. Mr. Nelson stated that he expected that all of the Councillors have allocated their monies for the current year and that allocations for this job will be in the coming year.

Civil Defence: Comm. Donnellan congratulated the local Civil Defence unit on the opening of their new headquarters which Comm. Donnellan stated are a credit to the local unit. Comm. Regan associated himself with Comm. Donnellan comments.

Victorious Teams: Comm. Hynes proposed that a civic reception be given to the various All-Ireland winning teams - U/21 and Junior hurling, Camogie, Boys & Girls Volley Ball. Comm. Moloney felt that the minor hurling, All-Ireland finalists should also be included. It was agreed to form a committee to look into same. The following were appointed to this committee: Comms. Regan, Moloney, Barrett, Curley and Hynes.

Planning: Galway Co. Council in its letter dated 17/9/96 acknowledged representation regarding a planning application for a Restaurant & Takeaway at Gort Road, Loughrea. Procedure for appeals etc. were set out in this letter.

The Walk: Galway Co. Council in its letter of the 23/9/96 stated that the footpath in the North Mound is in a satisfactory condition and it is felt that taking into account the number of empty cider and beer cans lying around, it is undesirable to provide extra seats in the area. Comm. Morgan stated that the extra seats were requested for The Walk itself and not the North Mound. Mr. Diskin agreed to review this.

Investment: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that he had shopped around and he considered the ACC the most suitable place to invest the Commissioners' money. The money is invested in Government Stocks, paying 5.6% with no D.I.R.T. with easy withdrawal facilities. This was acceptable to the meeting.

Revision of Remuneration: In accordance with Circular Letter EL 15/96, an increase of 1.5% was approved for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners on the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Morgan.

AIB/REHAB Galway People of the Year Awards 1996: On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Barrett it was decided to nominate Sister Bosco, Convent of Mercy, Loughrea as a Galway Person of the Year. Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to Sister Bosco involvement with the various groups in town and stated that she is a very suitable nominee.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Nelson stated that the Co. Council is in correspondence with the D.O.E. regarding this scheme. It was agreed to defer discussion until the November meeting.

Amenity Development at Long Point: The meeting considered plans drawn up by Mr. Diskin at the request of the Loughrea Amenity Development Group. Comm. Gunter-Nix complemented the Amenity Group on their initiative. Mr. Nelson pointed out that the funding of this work would be a matter for Galway Co. Council. On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix it was decided to forward a copy of these proposals to Galway Co. Council.

Local Government Reform: The meeting considered the following Reports which had been circulated to each member:

- i. Towards Cohesive Local Government Town & Country.
- ii. Financing of Local Government in Ireland.

Mr. Nelson in outlining the background to these Reports traced the history of Local Government in Ireland together with the financing of same. These reports are now under consideration by the Minister and he will issue his findings in due course. Comm. Donnellan complimented Mr. Nelson on his excellent report.

Motions submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:-

i. "That Galway Co. Council appoint a Litter Warden in the town" Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously. Mr. Nelson congratulated the Tidy Towns Committee on its continued success and also included Town Engineer, Mr. Diskin and his workers.

ii) "That Galway Co. Council give us the present position regarding provision of by-pass road." The Town Clerk was instructed to write to the County Engineer requesting an up-to-date report for the next meeting.

Motion submitted by Comm. Pat Hynes:-

"That the Minister for the Environment take urgent measures to have a new road constructed between Cappatagle Cross & Aughrim particularly in view of the most recent fatal accident on this stretch of road." Mr. Nelson pointed out that this motion is out of order as it is the N.R.A. that has responsibility for this road. Comm. Hynes agreed to let the motion go to the N.R.A. The motion was then seconded by Comm. James Curley.

Motion submitted by Comm. James Regan:

"I will propose at our October meeting that a letter be sent to the County Manager and to the Minister for Justice congratulating them on the renovations carried out to the Courthouse in Loughrea to date. I would

like to ask both parties that in view of the continuing work being carried out in renovating the Courthouse consideration should be given to sand-blasting the outside of the building. As it stands the Courthouse looks shabby and dilapidated despite the excellent work carried out inside." Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

a. "That Galway County Council be requested to purchase and provide as a matter of urgency, a Public Car Park at Dunkellin St., Loughrea, on the property of Mr. Mullaville and Mr. Concannon which is for sale - it being the only available and suitable ground remaining in that area. Further, that Loughrea Credit Union, whose property joins the aforementioned property, be consulted. This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

b. "That a letter be sent to RTE Television condemning its discrimination against female hurling, i.e. Camogie, by their failure to televise the All-Ireland Camogie Finals, together with a recommendation that all future All-Ireland Finals be shown live on television."

Motion seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously. Comm. Curley in supporting the motion congratulated the team on being the first team to bring this trophy across the Shannon. Comm. Morgan asked that a copy of the motion be sent to the G.A.A. and Camogie headquarters.

c. "That the Minister for the Environment be requested to impose a rule, compelling all motorists to have clear black capital letters and numbers on all number plates, and that the practise of using script lettering which cannot be easily read, be disallowed."

Mr. Nelson pointed out that legislation is already in force. Comm. Morgan asked that a copy of this motion be sent to the Garda Commissioner and the Dept. of Justice.

Credit Union: Comm. Curley asked why the Commissioners had not presented the Scroll to the Credit Union on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Chairman stated that he was not invited to these celebrations but he has the Scroll and will present it at a suitable date.

Parking at St. Brendan's G.A.A. Grounds: Comm. Barrett referred to the manner in which cars are parked while attending games in Loughrea. Comm. Barrett stated that a child was injured while playing at his house last week-end and he had great difficulty in getting to the child's house in Caherwaller. Comm. Gunter-Nix agreed that residents are greatly inconvenienced by indiscriminate parking when matches are in Loughrea. Comm. Curley stated that he will convey these comments to the local G.A.A. club whose members together with the gardai are responsible for parking. Comm. Barrett asked that the local Garda Superintendent be asked to have the gardai who had retired recently replaced.

Swimming Pool: Comm. Hynes raised the question of the proposed swimming pool and asked what is the current position. The Town Clerk was instructed to invite Mr. Gay Burke, Chairman of the Swimming Pool Committee to the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting. Signed this the 14th day of November, 1996.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/11/96.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting open with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Donnellan, minutes of the following meetings were adopted and signed as correct:-
Minutes of Estimates Meeting held on the 14/10/96.
Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 14/10/96.

Matters arising from the minutes:-

Carpark at Dunkellin St. In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Diskin stated that he had interviewed the landowners concerned. Mr. Diskin stated that one of the properties is definitely for sale and the seconded property is likely for sale, both owners are to come back with maps of their property

Caheronaun Path: The Town Clerk stated that Cllr. Michael Regan had informed the Co. Council prior to last month's meeting that he will provide \$1,000 towards the path to Caheronaun. The Town Clerk read a letter from Cllr. Jimmy McClearn indicating that he is also prepared to provide \$1,000 but this would have to be out of the 1997 allocation as his money for the the current year is spent. The Clerk confirmed that to date 4 Councillors had indicated that they are prepared to contribute towards the cost of this path.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Nelson stated that the Co. Council was asked to submit proposals for improvements to Loughrea Sewerage Scheme in two phases. Phase 1 being the improvement of the treatment works while phase 2 would deal with the drainage system. Consultants are now working on the plans for the 1st phase which will cost in the region of \$3M. Comm. Morgan asked if the "Storm Overflow" could be dealt with under the first phase. It was agreed that Mr. Diskin would pursue this matter.

Bypass Road: Comm. Moloney asked as to the present position of the bypass road. Mr. Nelson stated that funding is provide for the design to go ahead. In reply to further questioning, it was agreed that Mr. Nelson would have a further report for the December meeting.

Reception for Victorious Teams: The Chairman informed the meeting that the Bank of Ireland is prepared to contribute towards the cost of a Civic Reception for the All-Ireland winning teams. The reception to be held in the Bank of Ireland premises. Due to the number of teams involved it is proposed only to invite the local members of the various teams. Comm. Morgan objected to this arrangement and said that should be open to all.

On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Curley it was

decided to let the sub-committee deal with the matter.

Garda Manpower Levels: Supt. Martin Lally, Garda Barracks, Loughrea acknowledged representation made by the Board regarding maintaining Garda manpower levels in the area and stated that he has brought it to the notice of the relevant authority.

Town Twinning: The Town Clerk read a letter from the residents of Pont Pean, a town near Rennes in Brittany, which wished to twin with an Irish town. It was agreed that Comm. Morgan should pass this letter on to the Chamber of Commerce.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:-

a) "At the next meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will ask Galway Co. Council are they satisfied with proposals given to them by the Loughrea Amenity Development Group."

Mr. Nelson pointed out that it is too soon to expect a reply to these proposals and it was agreed to defer the matter to the January meeting.

b) "To ask Galway County Council to replace the old tarmacadam pathway at Athenry Road opposite Chanelle Veterinary."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Diskin stated that he has sought money for footpaths in Loughrea in the 1997 Estimates. This area will be considered in conjunction with other areas in the town.

Comm. Donnellan requested that the footpath from the Vocational School to Mount Pleasant Cemetery be considered.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 11th November, 1996, I will propose:

a. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners call on the Government to enact legislation which would prohibit any person who had been convicted in a court of law of administering BSE or other disease giving matter to animals, or for having offered or sold pork or other meat which had not been free of drugs residue, from owning or being involved in land or farm animals, for the remainder of his or her life."

Comm. Morgan was requested to amend his motion to read:-

"That Loughrea Town Commissioners call on the Government to enact legislation which would prohibit any person who has been convicted in a court of law of administering BSE to animals or for having offered or sold pork or other meat which has not been free of drugs residue, be subjected to the severest of penalties."

The amendment was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

b. "That a recommendation be sent to Galway Co. Council to remove the incorrect and mis-leading road signs, such as: An Gort, which when translated means only one thing, i.e. The Field, and others including An Graig, etc. Such signs give a definite impression to visitors and tourists alike that we in Galway are totally stupid, as well as making a skit and a laugh of the Irish language.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Hynes.

Mr. Diskin stated that the names were supplied by the Commission on "Place Names (Irish Forms) Order, 1975." Comm. Loughnane stated that

this list may have been revised. Mr. Diskin undertook to investigate this possibility. In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Diskin stated that he is also having difficulty with the Irish version of some street names but he hopes to be able to order these signs in the coming week and they could be in place by the end of the year.

c. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners on their own behalf and on behalf of the people of Loughrea, offer congratulations and best wishes to Teilifis na Gaeilege, together with our deep appreciation and thanks for the great work that they have undertaken in support of the Irish language and its culture, and that such greetings be presented to Teilifis na Gaeilge in the form of a Scroll."

Motion seconded by Comm. Hynes.

Motions submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:-

At the November meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that:

a. "Galway County Council make provision in the Estimates for 1997 for the appointment of a Gardener/Caretaker to look after the public parks/flower bed areas in the town."

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan.

b. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners recommend to the Department of Tourism that a Tourist Information Centre be established in the town of Loughrea."

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan.

New Library: Comm. Gunter-Nix asked if there is any news regarding the new library in Loughrea. On the suggestion of Mr. Nelson it was agreed to invite Mr. P. McMahon, County Librarian, to address a future meeting.

Wall at St. Laurencesfields: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Nelson stated that the Co. Council were contemplating making a contribution towards the cost of providing a wall at the rear of Mrs. Perlie Fullards property, but the price submitted was astronomical.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Hynes, Ms. Pauline Devine was congratulated on publishing her 4th book - "Riders By The Grey Lake."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the ^{9th} day of December, 1996.

James P. Ryan
Cathaoirleach.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS HELD ON THE 9/12/96.

CATHAOIRLEACH:- COMM. JAMES REGAN.

MEMBERS: COMMS. MARY GUNTER-NIX, TERESA MOLONEY, BRENDAN DONNELLAN, NORMAN MORGAN, OLIVER BARRETT, JAMES CURLEY, PAT HYNES, MATT LOUGHNANE.

OFFICIALS: DECLAN NELSON, ASST. CO. MANAGER, JOHN DISKIN, TOWN ENGINEER, ALEXIS MARMION, TOWN CLERK.

MEETING OPENED WITH PRAYERS.

MINUTES: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 11/11/96 WERE ADOPTED AND SIGNED AS CORRECT ON THE PROPOSITION OF COMM. DONNELLAN SECONDED BY COMM. BARRETT.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:-

LOUGHREA SEWERAGE SCHEME: IN REPLY TO COMM. BARRETT, MR. DISKIN STATED THAT HE HAD REFERRED THE SUGGESTION OF DEALING WITH THE STORM OVERFLOW TO MR. P. RIDGE, S.E.E.

BYPASS ROAD: MR. NELSON IN REPLY TO COMM. MOLONEY, STATED THE DESIGN FOR THE BYPASS ROAD IS ALMOST COMPLETE. THE DESIGN WHEN COMPLETED WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE N.R.A. FOR APPROVAL AND THEN BACK TO THE CO. COUNCIL. THE DESIGN FOR THE BRIDGES WILL BE LET OUT FOR CONTRACT. THIS WILL BRING THE JOB TO TENDER STAGE. MR. NELSON ALSO CONFIRMED THAT IT IS NOT PROPOSED TO HAVE ROUNDABOUTS. COMM. MORGAN STATED THAT HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY LOUGHREA CANNOT HAVE ROUNDABOUTS.

NEW LIBRARY: THE TOWN CLERK IN REPLY TO COMM. GUNTER-NIX STATED THAT THE COUNTY LIBRARIAN, MR. P. McMAHON HAD INDICATED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTLINING THE PLANS FOR THE NEW LIBRARY. ON THE PROPOSITION OF COMM. BARRETT SECONDED BY COMM. MORGAN IT WAS DECIDE TO INVITE MR. McMAHON TO THE NEXT MEETING.

MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY COMM. MORGAN:-

A. "THAT THE GARDAI BE REQUESTED TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW WHICH PROHIBITS CYCLING ON THE FOOTPATHS, THE PRACTICE OF WHICH HAS CAUSED INJURY TO SEVERAL PEDESTRIANS, INCLUDING ONE WOMAN WHO RECENTLY SUSTAINED INJURIES FROM A CYCLIST ON A FOOTPATH, WHICH RESULTED IN HER BEING OFF WORK FOR SIX WEEKS."

THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMM. BARRETT. COMM. GUNTER-NIX STATED THAT SCHOOLS AND PARENTS SHOULD HELP IN POINTING OUT THE DANGERS OF CARELESS CYCLING.

B. "THAT LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS OBJECT TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, AGAINST THE PROPOSED SALE OF PORTION OF THE GROUNDS OF ST. BRENDAN'S HOME, LOUGHREA, TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING A PRIVATE HOUSE THEREON; AND THAT SAID GROUNDS OF ST. BRENDAN'S HOME BE KEPT STRICTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE FACILITIES THAT ST. BRENDAN'S HOME SUPPLIES."

AFTER SOME DISCUSSION IT WAS DECIDED ON THE PROPOSITION OF COMM. REGAN

SECONDED BY COMM. CURLEY TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE WESTERN HEALTH BOARD AS TO ITS POLICY TOWARDS THE DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ST. BRENDAN'S HOME TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

VOTING BOOTHS: COMM. DONNELLAN REFERRED TO THE MIX-UP IN POLLING BOOTHS IN LOUGHREA FOR THE RECENT REFERENDUM. COMM. DONNELLAN CLAIMED THAT THESE MIX-UPS ARE OCCURRING TOO FREQUENTLY AND HE PROPOSED THAT THE COUNTY REGISTRAR BE INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING. COMM. BARRETT SECONDED THIS PROPOSAL.

SERVICE CHARGES: COMM. HYNES REFERRED TO RECENT LETTER SENT BY THE CO. COUNCIL TO PEOPLE WITH SERVICE CHARGES OUTSTANDING. COMM. HYNES OBJECTED TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS WAS HANDLED. COMM. CURLEY AND DONNELLAN SUPPORTED COMM. HYNES. COMM. GUNTER-NIX STATED THAT THE FORMAT OF THE LETTER WAS PROVOKING. COMM. LOUGHNANE REFERRED TO THE INADEQUATE STATE OF THE LOUGHREA SEWERAGE PLANT WHICH HE CLAIMED IS RESTRICTING DEVELOPMENT, A CLAIM REFUTED BY MR. NELSON. COMM. MORGAN REMARKED THAT AN UNIFORM CHARGE SHOULD EXIST THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. MR. DISKIN REFERRED TO THE COST OF MAINTAINING THESE SERVICES AND ADDED THAT THIS COST MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS: THE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE BOARD WAS EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING:-

THE PEARSES CAMOGIE CLUB ON WINNING THE ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

ST. BRENDAN'S CHORAL & DRAMATIC SOCIETY ON IT'S PRESENTATION OF "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF."

ST. RAPHAEL'S COLLEGE FOR IT'S PRESENTATION OF "OLIVER"

ST. BRIDGET'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, LOUGHREA ON ITS SUCCESS IN THE CROSS BOARD JUNGLE QUIZ.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: THE SYMPATHY OF THE BOARD WAS EXTENDED TO THE RELATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING:

GAY FAHY, BALLYGASTY, LOUGHREA.

PAT SLATTERY, COSMONA, LOUGHREA.

MRS. SCULLY, KILNADEEMNA, LOUGHREA.

MRS. KING, FAHY GARDEN'S, LOUGHREA.

JOHN REGAN, BIRROGE, KILNADEEMNA, LOUGHREA.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED THIS THE 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 1997.

James Regan
CATHAOIRLEACH.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/1/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Thomas Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian.

Apology: Mr. John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Curley, the minutes of the last meeting held on the 9/12/96 were adopted and signed as correct.

Votes of Sympathy: On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach a vote of sympathy was passed to Comm. Loughnane on the death of his father William. The sympathy of the Board was also extended to the following:

Seamus Callanan, Cloonoo on the death of his wife Mai.
Mrs. Masie Quinn, Fahy Gardens, on the death of her father Patrick D'Arcy.
The Carr Family, late of Moore St., on the death of Mrs. Carr.
The Moylan Family, Main Street, on the death of their mother Catherine.
Mrs. Monaghan, Donnellan Drive on the death of her husband Fintan.
Tom O'Brien, Main Street, on the death of his sister Bridget Ferguson.
To the family of Michael Cunniffe, late of Galway Road.
To the family of John Coen, late of Galway Road.
Pat McLoughlin, Caheronaun, on the death of his sister- Mrs. H. Donnellan.
To the family of Brendan Gately, late of Dunkellin Street.
Mrs. Murray, Cross Street on the death of her brother - Andrew Regan.

New Library: The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Pat McMahon, Co. Librarian to the meeting and invited him to outline his proposals for the proposed new library in Loughrea. Mr. McMahon thanked the members for inviting him and gave a resume of the history of the Co. Library in Loughrea which was opened in 1932. The first librarian was Mrs. F. Joynt and she was succeeded in 1984 by Mrs. Marie Jennings.

Mr. McMahon stated that it is proposed to convert the Church of Ireland premises at Church St. into a library and added that Loughrea is now No.1 on the priority list and is awaiting funding from the Department of the Environment. The proposed new library, drawings of which were on display, will include the following: An Adult Library; A Juvenile Library; and A Reference Section.

The members welcomed the proposals and expressed the hope that the work will commence quickly.

Comm. Loughnane thanked Mr. McMahon and his predecessor Mr. Tom Sharkey for their endeavours to provide this library. He also thanked the Church of Ireland authorities for making the site available and the Temperance Hall authority for housing the library up to now.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Gabriel Burke, Chairman Loughrea Swimming Pool Committee attended the meeting. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Burke and stated that he was invited to the meeting to give the present position regarding the proposed swimming pool for Loughrea and also to answer allegations that Comm. Pat Hynes is not being invited to committee meetings of the swimming pool committee.

Mr. Burke explained that some time ago a public meeting was held to discuss the possibility of providing a swimming pool, a committee was drawn up, Comm. Hynes was on this committee. A committee meeting was held immediately after the public meeting, Comm. Hynes did not wait for this meeting. Very few meetings were held but now that the project is gaining momentum all members are expected to pull their weight. Comm. Hynes stated that he is insisting on his right to attend all committee meetings. The consensus of the meeting was that Comm. Hynes should take up his problem with the Swimming Pool Committee.

Mr. Burke informed the meeting that they had agree a price of #5,000 for the site with the V.E.C. A feasibility study was carried out, this study indicated that a 80% occupancy will allow the pool to pay its way and 7 new jobs will be provided. The estimated cost is #600,000 of which #200,000 will have to be collected locally.

Comm. Gunter-Nix complimented the committee on its achievements to date and wish it every success.

Mr. Burke thanked the meeting for receiving him.

Service Charges: In reply to Comm. Curley, Mr. Kavanagh stated that both water and sewerage charges are abolished but all outstanding charges must be collected. Group schemes are not exempt.

On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Curley it was unanimously agreed to request the Minister for the Environment to grant the same facilities to group schemes as to public schemes.

Polling Booths: Mr. John Manicle in a letter to the Cathaoirleach, stated that he was Supervisory Presiding Officer at St Ita's N.S. for the Bail Referendum. He took grave exception to the comments attributed to Comm. O. Barrett, in the provincial press. Mr. Manicle pointed out that Presiding Officers are not responsible for inaccuracies in Voters Registers

or the issue of polling cards and he requested that the record be put right at the next meeting. Comm. Barrett stated that it was not his intention to offend anyone and if he did so he wished to apologise.

The meeting accepted that there is a problem regarding people be sent to St. Brendan's Home to vote.

Mr. Kavanagh stated that he proposes to discuss the matter with the County Registrar .

It was agreed to recommend to the Co. Registrar that only residents at St. Brendan's Home be asked to vote there.

Correspondence: Galway Co. Council in its letter of the 2/1/97 stated:-

. The replacement of the tarmacadam path at Athenry Road and the path from the Vocational School to Mount Pleasant is dependant on the availability of funding.

. The recommendation regarding the appointment of a gardener has been noted by the County Secretary.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/1/97.

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Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

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On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Curley it was unanimously agreed to request the Minister for the Environment to grant the same facilities to group schemes as to public schemes.

Polling Booths: Mr. John Manicle in a letter to the Cathaoirleach, stated that he was Supervisory Presiding Officer at St Ita's N.S. for the Bail Referendum. He took grave exception to the comments attributed to Comm. O. Barrett, in the provincial press. Mr. Manicle pointed out that Presiding Officers are not responsible for inaccuracies in Voters Registers

or the issue of polling cards and he requested that the record be put right at the next meeting. Comm. Barrett stated that it was not his intention to offend anyone and if he hid so he wished to apologise.

The meeting accepted that there is a problem regarding people be sent to St. Brendan's Home to vote.

Mr. Kavanagh stated that he proposes to discuss the matter with the County Registrar.

It was agreed to recommend to the Co. Registrar that only residents at St. Brendan's Home be asked to vote there.

Correspondence: Galway Co. Council in its letter of the 2/1/97 stated:-

1. The replacement of the tarmacadam path at Athenry Road and the path from the Vocational School to Mount Pleasant is dependant on the availability of funding.
2. The recommendation regarding the appointment of a gardener has been noted by the County Secretary.

3. The proposed improvements at Long Point are acceptable and could be carried out if funds were available.

St. Brendan's Home: Mr. E. Hannan, C.E.O. stated in his letter dated 18/12/96, that in accordance with the due process of the law, his Board has decided to dispose of a site to the Mercy Sisters, Western Province for the construction of a residence. It is proposed that the Sisters now employed on the Board's nursing staff will move into this residence thereby making the premises which they now occupy available to the Board for other purposes. The members with the exception of Comm. Morgan welcomed this reply. Comm. Hynes asked for a show of hands in support of the Health Board's action. This was seconded by Comm. Curley. Comms. Hynes, Curley, Regan, Loughnane, Donnellan, Barrett, Moloney and Gunter-Nix supported the move. Comm. Morgan asked the members to use their intelligence and stated that this land should be reserved for the care of the elderly. Comm. Moloney stated that she wished to have it recorded that had she known the full facts she would not have supported Comm. Morgan at the last meeting.

Road from Cappatagle Cross to Aughrim: The NRA acknowledged receipt of recommendation made by Loughrea Town Commissioners with regard to improving the road from Cappatagle Cross to Aughrim.

Conferences: Notifications of the following conferences were read;

1. A.M.A.I. Annual Seminar - "Urbanization of Irish Society" to be held in Talbort Hotel, Wexford, on Feb. 14th & 15th, 1997.
 2. General Council of Co. Councils Annual Seminar to be held in Westport January 24/25th 1997.
 3. L.A. Members Association Annual Conference in Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare on 3/4th April 1997. (Preliminary Notice)
- On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan the above were marked read.

Revision of Remuneration- 28th Pay Round Phase 5: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the 28th Pay Round as set out in C.L.E.L 19/96, in so far as it relates to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners, was approved.

Garrybreeda: Comm. Barrett asked if improvements could be carried out to the road at Garrybreeda. The Town Clerk stated that he will refer same to the Town Engineer.

Congratulations: Comm. Moloney congratulated the following:

1. Town Engineer, Mr. John Diskin on having the Street names erected.
2. The people who had their heads shaved to raise money for Galway Hospice.
3. The Abbey Choir on its fund raising efforts on behalf of Galway Hospice.

Festive Lighting: Comm. Curley remarked on the way the town was lit up for the Christmas Season and he proposed that a letter of thanks be sent

to the Chamber of Commerce.

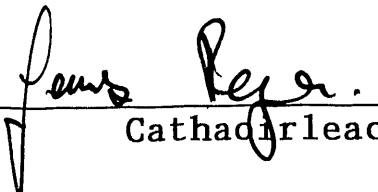
Fire at New Inn Vocational School: Comm. Gunter-Nix complimented Mr. Michael Kenny, caretaker at New Inn vocational school on his prompt action in dealing with the gas leak that had occurred in the school and the resulting fire. Comm. Gunter-Nix wished Mr. Kenny a speedy recovery from his injuries. Comm. Curley seconded this.

Foreign Residents: Comm. Loughnane referred to the recent revelations regarding foreign in the West Cork area and he proposed that the Minister for Justice obtain a full dossier on foreigners who take up residence in the country. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Gardai Replacements: Comm. Donnellan referred to the number of gardai that had retired in the Loughrea Garda District and he proposed that this matter be taken up with the Garda Commissioner. This was seconded by Comm. Curley.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 18th day of February, 1997.


Cathairleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/2/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Messrs Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Votes of Sympathy: Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

1. The Mannion Family, Masonbrook on the death of Tommie Mannion.
2. The O'Brien Family, Cuscorrig Crescent on the death of Joe O'Brien.
3. The relatives of the late Michael Ward, Athenry Road, Loughrea.
4. The Burns Family Courthor, Kilnadeemna on the death of Tony Burns.
5. Tony Delaney, Mob Hill, Loughrea on the death of his brother.

Minutes: The minutes of meeting held on the 13/1/97 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Garrybreeda Road: In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Diskin stated that there is money available in 1997 for tarring this type of road and he proposes doing it in the current year. At the request of Comm. Gunter-Nix, Mr. Diskin agreed to look at the safety aspect of this roadway. The following roads were also brought to Mr. Diskin's attention - Tullagh Upper Road - mentioned by Comm. Hynes. Cosmona village road - mentioned by Comm. Donnellan. Abbey St./Mount Carmel Road - mentioned by Comm. Curley.

Garda Replacements: In reply to Comm. Morgan, the Town Clerk stated that he had not received a reply from the Garda Commissioners regarding Garda replacements in the Loughrea area. On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix it was decided that the Cathaoirleach should seek a meeting with the local Garda Superintendent. It was agreed that Comms. Curley & Loughnane should accompany an Cathaoirleach.

Service Charges: Comm. Hynes stated that Group Schemes should enjoy the same facilities as public supplies and he felt that the Groups should be supported in their fight for these facilities. Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that the Minister had decreed that only domestic supplies from public sources are exempt.

New Library: Comm. Donnellan asked if provision will be made for church services when the new library is opened in the Church of Ireland premises.

Comm. Morgan stated that this is catered for in the legal agreement drawn up between the Church of Ireland and the Co. Council. Mr. Nelson stated that if people are concerned about this matter they should seek clarification from the County Secretary.

Television Service: An Cathaoirleach introduced Mr. Michael Healy from Athenry and he invited Mr. Healy to outline the position with regard to the Deflector System in Loughrea. Mr. Healy stated that he is a member of the group which has provided the Deflector System in Loughrea. Arising from a recent court case in Cork, Mr. Healy's group have been advised by their legal advisors to close down. Cable Link, the company which holds the licence for piped television have threatened legal action. Mr. Healy outlined the history of the deflector system which has served Loughrea for the past number of years. This system is now closed and it is proposed to hold public meetings in Athenry on Thursday next and in Loughrea on Monday next at 8 p.m. Mr. Healy then left the meeting. Comm. Hynes felt that this group should be supported and he asked where does the peoples' wishes come into it. Comm. Moloney supported Comm. Hynes and she urged the people to support the meeting on Monday night.

Portiuncula Cat Scan Appeal: An invitation to the members to attend a public meeting in O'Dea's Hotel on Thursday 13th February at 8.30 p.m. was read to the meeting.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D. informed the meeting that he had tabled a question in the Dail to the Minister for the Environment regarding Loughrea town sewerage scheme. The Minister's reply given on the 22/1/97 was that this scheme is being considered in the context of his Department's water & sewerage schemes work programme for 1997, details of which he will announce shortly.

Christmas Lighting: A letter from Mr. Tom Fahy, secretary Loughrea Chamber of Commerce seeking a financial contribution towards the cost of the 1996 Christmas lighting was read to the meeting. Mr. Nelson pointed out that the 1997 Estimate is approved and therefore the request cannot be considered in the current year but that he will keep the matter in mind when he is preparing the 1998 estimate.

Tourism: A letter from Ireland West Tourism in reply to a request to establish a Tourist Information Centre was read to the meeting. On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Comm. Moloney it was agreed to defer discussion on this letter until the March meeting. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk would circulate a copy of the letter to each member.

Corry' Fields: Loughrea Amenity Development Group informed the meeting that arising from discussion with Mr. John Diskin, its members had met a large number of residents from the Cuscorrig area at Corry's field on the 2/2/97. The unanimous outcome of the meeting was that the pathway be continued along the lakeshore and around the perimeter of the second field and that the open drain be piped and closed if possible. The group also expressed the following views. That the pathway inside the boundary wall be commenced first; that the existing boundary wall, because of its character be retained, i.e. repaired rather than rebuilt; that the walkways in the first field may be liable to flooding and that the location of this walkway may be having a negative effect on the bird life

of the area. The Group also expressed a wish to be informed of proposed works and that proposals submitted by organisations and individuals for the long term development of the area are being compiled and will be submitted on completion.

The proposals were accepted by the meeting.

In reply to Comm. Gunter-Nix, an Cathaoirleach stated that the Commissioners have the final say on the work proposed for the area.

Mr. Nelson stated that due to heavy commitments he intends to leave the meeting but before leaving he would answer any relevant questions.

Mr. Nelson also expressed the opinion that discussion on the minutes is being abused thereby prolonging the meeting. Comm. Morgan welcomed Mr. Nelson's comments.

Comm. Loughnane enquired as to what status the road through Loughrea will command when the bypass comes. Mr. Nelson declined to answer this question adding the Comm. Loughnane can raise it at the Loughrea Area Co. Council meeting next Thursday.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

- a. "That Galway Co. Council be requested to include as a priority in their Roads Improvement Programme, the removal of a most dangerous bend opposite St. Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea. The owner of the property thereat, Mr. Martin Smyth, Mount Pleasant, Loughrea, has indicated that he will give his full co-operation to Galway County Council in this matter."

Comm. Curley in seconding this motion stated that he has a similar motion in and both can be considered together.

Comm. Morgan stated that Mr. Smyth is prepared to co-operated with the County Council in having improvements carried out.

Mr. Diskin stated that a Co. Co. improvement line for this bend will have a major effect on this man's front lawn. He will meet Mr. Smyth and maybe something can be submitted for the 1998 estimates.

- b. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners, as the next stage of the development of their property known as Corry's Fields, continue the footpath which runs parallel to the public road - to the end of said property at Bryan Ryan's wall, so that all of this property may be available to the community as soon as possible."

Motion seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix and agreed.

- c. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners object to the intended down-grading of St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea by reducing the number of patients receiving attention there from approx. 240 to 100 patients even though there is a waiting list of persons requesting admission to St. Brendan's Home."

There was no seconded for this motion.

An Cathaoirleach accused Comm. Morgan of using the Board room to carry on a personal vendetta against St. Brendan's and added that his information is that the Western Health Board plan to upgrade St. Brendan's Comms. Barrett and Hynes also stated that their information is that the place is to be upgraded. In reply to Comm. Donnellan, Comm. Morgan stated that he had got his information in a news paper about 12 months ago. Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she objected to Comm. Morgan causing distress and anxiety to the residents of St. Brendan's.

On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Curley it was

decided to write to the Western Health Board to enquire as to what plans it has for St. Brendan's Home.

Motion submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:

"That Loughrea Town Commissioners give a lead in planning a suitable commemoration for the New Millennium."

Comm. Gunter-Nix in proposing the motion thought that the Commissioners should show some recognition of the event like commissioning a piece of sculpture or something of that nature.

Comm. Morgan seconded the motion.

Comm. Loughnane referred to the proposed bypass road and he thought that 1% of the funding of this work could be made available for an "Artistic Piece". On the suggestion of Comm. Donnellan it was agreed that the Commissioners would meet in private to discuss the matter.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:-

- a. "That Galway County Council examine the wall opposite the Vocational School on the Masonbrook side of the town, for it is very dangerous both to passing vehicles and pedestrians."

This motion was discussed and passed in conjunction with a similar motion submitted by Comm. Morgan.

- b. "That Galway County Council examine the path at the end of Mount Carmel Crescent, as it ends abruptly and pedestrians have to walk on the road to get to the end of same."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.
Mr. Diskin agreed to examine same.

"Better Local Government - A Programme for Change": Comm. Gunter-Nix thanked the staff of Galway Co. Council and the Department of the Environment for giving her the opportunity to attend a presentation on "Better Local Government - A Programme for Change" held in the Great Southern Hotel, Galway on the 21/1/97. Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D., Minister for the Environment attended the presentation.

Carrabane Foroige Club: Comm. Loughnane proposed a vote of congratulations to the Carrabane Foroige Club on hosting a most enjoyable Symposium recently in Carrabane. This was seconded by Comm. Morgan. Comm. Donnellan stated that he wished to be associated with the sentiments expressed by Comm. Loughnane as it was a most enjoyable gathering.

The meeting then terminated.

Signed this the 15th day of March, 1997.

James Regan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/3/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Apology: Comm. Oliver Barrett.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Votes of Sympathy: Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

1. Comm. Norman Morgan and the Morgan family on the death of their mother, Mrs. Bridget Morgan.
2. The Reilly family on the death of Josephine Reilly, Galway Road and on the tragic death of Paul Reilly, Abbey Terrace.
3. The Monahan family on the death of Mrs. Crissie Monahan, Main Street.
4. Mrs. Bernie Wade, Fahy Gardens, on the death of her brother Patrick.
5. The relatives of the late Tessie Cunningham, Fahy Gardens.
6. Mrs. Bridie Kelleher, Knockanima, on the death of her sister.
7. Mrs. Bane, Bride Street on the death of her husband, Paddy.
8. The Shaughnessy family, on the death of their father Paddy. *(Jameside Park)*
9. The Fahy family Moyleen on the death of Larry in Australia.
10. The Callanan family, Racecourse on the death of Miko.
11. The Leahy family, Killeen on the death of Peter Leahy.

Comm. Morgan on behalf of his family and Comm. Moloney on behalf of the Monahan family thanked the meeting for their kind thoughts.

Minutes: Arising from the minutes, Comm. Morgan referred to the discussion on Corry's field and pointed out that it was agreed that the pathway should be kept back on the high ground and not along the lake shore as stated in the minutes. This correction to the minutes was noted. The minutes were then signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan, seconded by Comm. Curley.

St. Brendan's Home: Mr. Hannon, C.E.O., Western Health Board in his letter dated 14/2/97 stated that his Board has no plans to downgrade St. Brendan's Home but has proposed to replace the outdated accommodation with a more modern structure. Comm. Norgan stated that he has difficulty with Mr. Hannon's comments in

view of the fact that buildings are vacant at St. Brendan's and the stores have moved to Galway.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Western Health Board is a legally appointed body which includes people from the Loughrea area. Mr. Nelson considers that it is wrong for this Board to be continually interfering with the workings of the Health Board. He would be concerned if other public bodies, at their meetings, would discuss in detail the business of local authorities for which he is responsible. This Board, Mr. Nelson added should stick to its own business.

Subsistence Allowances: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Moloney, subsistence allowances as set out in Circular Letter EL 1/97 were approved.

Conferences: Notice of intention to hold the following conferences were read to the meeting:

1. The 5th Annual Environmental Recognition Conference to be held in Ballybunion on April 18th 19th & 20th.
2. A Local Government Information Technology Conference in Ballina on 17th 18th & 19th April.
3. Local Authority Members Association 14th Annual Conference in Kenmare on 3/4 April

On the proposition of Comm. Moloney, seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix, it was decided not to send delegates to the above conferences.

Tourism: The meeting consider Ireland West reply to a request for a Tourist Information Centre in Loughrea. The reply set out the conditions in which Ireland West would consider setting up a Tourist Information Centre. Comm. Morgan stated that Mr. Maurice Sweeney provides some of the services suggested by Ireland West and he has to pay Ireland West for the privilege. Comm. Hynes referred to the refurbishing of the Town Hall in Tuam and pressed for a similar project in Loughrea. He felt that it is important to initiate the acquisition of the Loughrea Town Hall. On the suggestion of Mr. Nelson it was agreed to invite Mr. Brian Flynn, Regional Manager of Ireland West to the next meeting. It was also agreed to invite Mr. Sweeney to this meeting.

Heritage Group: Comm. Donnellan stated that the Commissioners had contributed \$50,000 towards the cost of developing the car park at Main Street. He understood at the time that the Heritage Group were to make provisions for a museum and tourist information office at this car park. The Town Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council seeking clarification with regard to the acquisition of this property.

Abstract of Accounts 1996 Year: The Town Clerk presented the Abstract of Accounts in respect of the 1996 year. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan the Abstract of Accounts were noted.

Amenity Development Group: The following deputation from Loughrea Amenity Group was received by the meeting: Mrs. Ursula Mooney; Padraic Fitzgerald; Paddy Sweeney and Gerry Mooney. Mrs. Mooney thanked the meeting for receiving them and stated that the

purpose of the meeting is to request the Co. Council and the Town Commissioners to draw a detailed plan for the Fair Green/Corry's Field area. Mrs. Mooney informed the meeting that the Amenity Group had invited suggestions and had met the various interested groups. Arising from these meetings the Amenity Group had drawn up a list of proposals which they handed into the meeting. Each member of the Group spoke and stressed the need for an overall plan for this area. Mr. Nelson complimented the Group on their endeavours, emphasising the help it is to the Council to know the wishes of the people. He assured the Group that the Council will take on board whatever it can. An Cathairleach, the members and Town Engineer thanked and complimented the Amenity Development Group on its work. The Town Engineer agreed to peruse the report and report back to the next meeting. The Town Clerk was instructed to forward a copy of the proposals to Galway County Council.

Motion submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:-

"At the March meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that additional street lighting be provided at Cosmona, Loughrea.!"
The motion was seconded by Comm. Curley and passed unanimously. Mr. Diskin stated that the 1997 programme is approved but that this recommendation can be considered under the 1998 programme.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 10 March, 1997, I will propose that Galway Co. Council be requested:

a. "To erect signs prohibiting parking for 20 metres east and west of the entrance to the Children's Playground."

An Cathairleach pointed out that this is included in the proposals submitted by the Amenity Development Group. The proposal had no seconded.

b. "That the evergreen trees planted in The Walk between the Mart and The Walk be removed because the strong root system of this species of tree will damage the bank wall and the new tarmac roadway and because said trees are said to be unsuitable in the Lisa McKnight report on The Walk"

Comm. Loughnane in seconding the motion stressed that some type of hedging is need. Comm. Donnellan opposed the motion and was supported by Comms. Curley, Gunter-Nix, Hynes and Moloney.

Mr. Diskin stated that the root system of these trees is quite small and there is not a problem at the minute. These trees were planted to screen off the Mart and it was intended to replace them in due course. The trees can be clipped for the present and may be replaced at a later stage. This was acceptable to the meeting.

c. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners recommend to the Western Health Board that the corrugated asbestos ceiling which is cracked and has bits missing, in the corridor of unit 3 Merlin Park, Galway be replaced immediately. Asbestos can cause cancer and is a definite danger to the health of doctors, nurses and other staff and to patients who walk in this corridor or use it to go to and from toilets etc."

this motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan and passed.

Loughrea Sewerage System: Comm. Curley referred to the announcement that monies are being made available for the improvement of Loughrea Sewerage Scheme and he stated that he wished to thank and compliment all concerned with bringing this about.

Garda Strength: Comm. Regan informed the meeting that both himself and Comm. Curley had met with Supt. Lally and they had discussed the need to have the gardai who had retired in the Loughrea garda district replaced. Comm. Regan stated that they were well received by Supt. Lally and he told them that he would write to the Garda Commissioner and put the views of the Town Commissioners to him.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of April, 1997.

Norman Morgan
Cathairleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/4/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Oliver Barrett.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, A. Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Votes of Sympathy: On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach, the meeting adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Tom Diskin, brother of Town Engineer Mr. John Diskin.

All present associated themselves with this expression of sympathy. The sympathy of the Board was also extended to the following:-

1. Mrs. Anne Keary, Donnellan Drive on the death of her mother.
2. The Sisters of Mercy on the death of Sister Dolores.
3. Martin Ruhan, Mountpleasant on the death of his brother.
4. The Morrissey family Dunkellin St., on the death of Mary.
5. Gerry Broderick Donnellan Drive on the death of his mother.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley, the minutes of meeting held on the 10/3/97 were signed as correct.

Ireland West: Town Clerk informed the meeting that due to a prior commitment, Mr. Brian Flynn, Regional Manager of Ireland West, is unable to attend tonight's meeting. Comm. Gunter-Nix stressed the importance of keeping this in mind.

Town Hall: In reply to Comm. Barrett, the Town Clerk stated that discussion had taken place between the County Manager and the Heritage Group regarding Loughrea Town Hall.

Merlin Park Hospital: In reply to Comm. Morgan, the Town Clerk stated that the Western Health Board had acknowledged receipt of complaint re ceiling of unit 3 Merlin Park.

Education Bill, 1977: The meeting considered the Irish Vocational Education Association concern and reaction to the Education Bill, 1977 as set out in the IVEA's letter dated 25/3/97. On the proposition of Comm. Moloney it was agreed to support the views of the IVEA.

National Home Holiday Awareness Week: Bord Failte in its letter dated 13/3/97 set out plans for a National Home Holiday Awareness Week, 28th April to 4th May. Bord Failte are seeking the support of all local authorities during this week. It was agreed that Comms. Gunter-Nix, Moloney and Curley together with an Cathaoirleach would meet to discuss the matter.

Mr. Noel Treacy T.D. submitted copies of replies to the following questions which he had tabled in the Dail:-

1. Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: The Minister for the Environment, Mr. Brendan Howlin stated that this is included in the Water & Sewerage Capital Work Programme for 1997. It is scheduled to commence construction this year at a total estimated cost of #3m.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that the Co. Council was asked to submit new proposals for the improvements to be carried out in two phases dealing with the treatment works and the drainage system. Arising from this the time factor will be very tight. On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Moloney it was agreed to request the Co. Council to extend the collection area to cater for future development around the town.

2. Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme - Extension: Minister's reply - "Contract documents are with my Department at present but, having regard to the existing high level of commitments under the water and sewerage programme, I cannot say when it may be possible to approve them"

3. Loughrea Branch Library - Construction of. Minister's reply - "A sketch design and cost plan for a branch library in Loughrea has been received in my Department and is being considered. However, having regard to the high level of demand for funding for library proposals generally, it is not possible to indicate when the proposal may be approved."

Disappointment was expressed with this reply.

Protestant Church Building: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Moloney it was decided to request the Co. Council to take steps to prevent the Protestant Church building from deteriorating further.

Conferences: Notification of the following conferences were read:

1. "Supporting Small Enterprises" to be held in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise on Sept. 4th & 5th. (Laois County Enterprise Board Ltd)
2. "Has the computer age passed the Local Councillor by" to be held in Greystones on Oct. 3rd to 5th. (Greystones Town Commissioners)
3. "Drug Abuse/Misuse and other issues facing Health Boards in Villages, Towns & Cites" to be held in West Lodge Hotel Bantry on May 2 & 3 organised by Association of Health Boards in Ireland.

Comm. Barrett expressed a desire to attend the seminar dealing with drugs. On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Curley it was agreed that Comm. Barrett should attend this seminar.

Remuneration: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix, remuneration as set out in Circular Letter EL 2/97, insofar as it relates to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners was approved.

Corry's Field: Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. John Diskin, Town Engineer, discussion on improvements to Corry's field was deferred.

It was agreed to call a special meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at 7/30 to discuss this matter. It was also agreed to invite Loughrea Amenity Group to send 6 of its members to this meeting.

Urban Renewal Scheme: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that there is a significant increase in the Department of the Environment grants for these schemes this year. Loughrea will now get a grant of £22,700 and as a consequence the Commissioners' contribution will have to increase from £5,000 to £11,350. Mr. Nelson suggested that the Commissioners should meet this increase from its capital fund.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley it was unanimously agreed to increase the Commissioners contribution to £11,350.

Motion submitted by Comm. Teresa Moloney:-

At the April meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners, I will propose:-

a. That a proper footpath be provided at Mount Pleasant/Masonbrook in order to avoid injury to pedestrians who have to use the road to walk to the cemetery and further.

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and agreed.

b. That lighting be provided as soon as possible to Mount Pleasant/Masonbrook as the last light provided presently stops at St. Brigid's Vocational School, and does not go as far as the town boundary

Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan and agreed.

c. That water and toilet facilities be provided at Mount Pleasant cemetery. Motion seconded by Comm. Curley and agreed.

Comm. Donnellan stated that he and some other land owners have a supply from the town main which runs along the boundary wall of the cemetery and he felt that there would be no objection to connecting to this.

Motion submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:-

At the next meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that Galway County Council examine the water pressure at the west end of our town - i.e. Athenry Road/Cottage Hill area.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Hynes and agreed.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 14th April, 1997, I will propose:-

a. That Galway County Council be requested to inform Loughrea Town Commissioners if it is their intention to take the necessary steps to protect the Crannoges on Loughrea lake, which according to the survey carried out on said Crannoges in 1864, by archaeologist, Mr. G. Henry Kinahan, Geological Survey of Ireland, who stated that said crannoges were built about the time of Christ (i.e. 2000 years ago). The artifacts from this Archaeological dig are with the National Museum (which in 1864 came under the Royal Irish Academy). See Loughrea Record pages 133-35; 153-55; 173-76.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and agreed.

b. That Loughrea Town Commissioners request the Board of Works to state the legal status of the Crannoges on Loughrea lake; and at the same time

inform said Bord of Works that said Crannoges are in danger of being destroyed by the high levels of water of the lake, caused by Galway County Council's sluice gates. This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and agreed.

c. That Loughrea Town Commissioners recommend to the Taoiseach and Government that Custom Officers be placed under the command of the Chief Garda Commissioner, and that Custom Officers be compelled to extend to the general public the same high standard of respect and courtesy as is shown by the Gardai - to which the public has a legal right. On the advice of the Assistant County Manager, An Cathaoirleach ruled this motion out of order.

Comm. Morgan disputed An Cathaoirleach's right to refuse to accept a motion and he requested that he be supplied in writing with his legal rights with regard to submitting motions.

Mr. Nelson stated that An Cathaoirleach conducts the running of the meeting and he as Assistant County Manager is legally obliged to advise him on certain matters.

Gardener: Mr. Nelson advised the meeting that the County Council has agreed to appoint a gardener for Loughrea town. This news was welcomed by the meeting.

Unauthorised Parking: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Donnellan it was agreed to request the gardai to prevent unauthorised parking at Abbey Street and outside the Credit Union offices.

New Millennium: Comm. Gunter-Nix reminded the members that it was agreed that the Commissioners would commemorate the New Millennium in a suitable manner and she stressed that this would want to be kept in mind.

Water Charges: Comm. Hynes proposed that all charges for group water schemes be abolished. This was seconded by Comm. Curley and agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of May, 1997.

James Ryan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 22/4/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, James Curley.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Padraic Redmond, Co. Council Architect and Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Loughrea Amenity Group Members: Ursula Mooney, Anna Cronin, Myra Hough, Carmel Garrett, Enda McClearn, Dermot Harrison.

Apology: Comm. Oliver Barrett.

An Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of Loughrea Amenity Group to the meeting stating that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for the development of Corry's Field and the Fair Green area of the town. Comm. Regan introduced Mr. Diskin and Mr. Redmond to the meeting and invited them to outline the proposed plan.

Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that Corry's Fields consists of two fields with a total area of 15.4 acres. The proposed plan could be considered in two parts - i.e. Corry's Fields themselves and the amenity area to the east known as The Green/Playground area. Mr. Diskin considered it best to look at the Corry's Fields first. With regard to the proposal for the Corry's Fields area, the primary considerations were (a) not to obstruct the view of the 16 houses in this area; (b) the personal safety of the park users; and (c) not to endanger users of the N66 (Loughrea/Gort) road. Mr. Redmond gave a broad outline of the proposed plan with the aid of projector and slides.

Mr. Redmond also spoke on the plan for the Green area. The idea is to create a sequence of amenities that would lead one from an urban setting through semi-open spaces (Green/Playground) to the semi-natural setting of Corry's Fields.

Mr. Nelson explained to the meeting that sizeable grants are now available to implement this work, it would be a grave error not to avail of these grants and that plans and application must be with the D.O.E. as soon as possible.

A general discussion took place on the proposed plans during which the members of Loughrea Amenity Group stated that they were only expressing their own personal views.

It was agreed ~~that~~ to give the Amenity Group an opportunity to study the proposed plan and to submit their observations in writing within one week.

The members of the Amenity Group thanked the meeting for receiving them and left.

An Cathaoirleach stressed that in the final analysis it is the duty of the Commissioners to decide what, in their opinion, is best for entire population of the town and to make their decision accordingly.

After further discussion the following was agreed:-

1. That the Town Clerk would circulate a copy of Mr. Kevin Collins proposals together with a copy of the comments of the Amenity Group to each member.
2. That the Commissioners will take a decision at their meeting on the 12th May on the matter.
3. That work can commence on the roadside footpath in Corry's Fields.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12 day of May, 1997.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/5/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Oliver Barrett.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Padraic Redmond, County Council Architect, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Mr. John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan, the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 14/4/97 and of the special meeting held on the 22/4/97, were adopted and signed as correct.

Tourism: Mr. Brian Flynn, Regional Tourism Manager of Ireland West and Mr. Maurice Sweeney, Chairman of Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, who also operates a Tourism Information Point in Loughrea, were welcomed by An Cathaoirleach to the meeting.

Mr. Nelson stated that the purpose of the meeting is to see what can be done to promote tourism in Loughrea.

Mr. Flynn informed the meeting that the government in 1987 decided that Bord Failte should get access to E.U. funding and that it should become self-sufficient within 5 years. Ireland West which has 17 full time staff and 66 part-time staff receives an allocation of #232,000 per annum.

He mentioned a few operations in the area that were assisted by Ireland West but added that it is up to the people to market their own operation. He cited Willie Leahy of Aille as a prime example. Mr. Flynn stated that any other venture must be self financing. In reply to queries from the members Mr. Flynn that Ireland West administers the Agri Tourism on behalf of the Dept. of Agriculture; that the Heritage Centres are not too successful.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the Anglers had produced their own brochure and recently had a group of anglers from Donegal.

Mr. Flynn stated that if a brochure is produced on Loughrea, Bord Failte will have these distributed at their various Information Points.

An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Flynn and Mr. Sweeney for their contribution.

Business at Meetings: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Nelson stated that legal advise had confirmed that in the absence of Standing Orders, the rule of Parliamentary Debate prevails, i.e. An Cathaoirleach decides what is acceptable for discussion.

Corry's Fields/Fair Green Areas: An Cathaoirleach referred to previous meetings and stated that the time has now come to take a decision on the proposed plan for this area.

With regard to the Green it was agreed that there should be no car park unless the Commissioners agreed to same.

Car Park at Childrens' Playground: Comm. Donnellan expressed reservations about the size of the proposed car park at the west end of the playground. Comm. Morgan stated that the Tennis Club is in need of additional ground to extend its playing area. In reply to Comm. Loughnane the Town Clerk stated

that he had no communication from the Tennis Club.

With regard to the sheds in Corry's it is generally accepted that the sheds should be removed or replaced. No final decision was taken.

Tree Planting: The planting of Corry's Fields was discussed and two proposals were put to the meeting:

Comm. Donnellan proposed that the plan submitted by the Tree Council of Ireland be accepted in principle but that the density of the trees be reconsidered. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Comm. Morgan stated that he is opposed to groups of trees and he proposed that single trees, similar to those on the Green be planted. This was seconded by Comm. Hynes.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For Comm. Donnellan's proposal: Comms. Donnellan, Barrett, Regan, Loughnane, Gunter-Nix and Moloney. 6 No.

For Comm. Morgan's proposal: Comms. Morgan, Hynes and Curley. 3 No.

It was agreed that Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer and Mr. Redmond, Co. Co. Architect would take up the matter of the density of the trees with the Tree Council of Ireland.

Merlin Park Hospital: Western Health Board in its letter of the 21/4/97 stated that it had referred the Commissioners complaint re ceiling at Unit 3 in Merlin Park to the appropriate personnel and thanked the Commissioners for their interest in the matter.

Comm. Morgan welcomed the reply and it was agreed to give him a copy of the reply.

Unauthorised Parking: Superintendent Lally informed the meeting that the unauthorised parking at both Abbey St and Bride St. is receiving attention.

Heritage Day 1997: The meeting was informed by the Dept. of Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht that 21st September is Heritage Day.

It was agreed to pass the correspondence on to the Loughrea Heritage Group per Comm. Norman Morgan.

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference: The meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. is fixed for Birr on 15th -18th September.

Motions are limited to 2 per Authority and must be submitted by 27/6/97.

Comms. Barrett and Loughnane referred to correspondence received from Cllr. Michael Joy, President of A.M.A.I. re "One Stop Shops"

It was agreed to discuss this correspondence at the next meeting.

Conferences: The meeting decided not to send delegates to the following:-

a. L.A.M.A./National Association of Councillors, Joint North/South Local Authority Conference, Royal Hotel & Leisure Centre, Bray, 10th 12 Oct.

b. Mid West Regional Authority - International Conference "Ireland A Model For Success In Europe" in Jury's Hotel, Limerick, 19th & 20th June.

National Home Holiday Awareness Week: Comm. Morgan apologised for not attending the function to launch National Home Holiday Awareness Week and he complimented An Cathaoirleach on his presentation on the night.

Conference on Drug Abuse/Misuse. Comm. Barrett informed the meeting that he had attended the conference on Drug Abuse/Misuse in Bantry which was organised by the Association of Health Boards in Ireland. Comm. Barrett stated that various medical matters were discussed at this conference and he was disappointed at the little time that was actually devoted to drugs. Comm. Barrett also stated that he was disappointed at the number of delegates who appeared to have just signed in at the conference.

Congratulations: Mr. Coleman Shaughnessy was congratulated on being chosen to captain the Irish Angling team which will represent Ireland in America. On the suggestion of Comm. Morgan is was agreed to present a scroll to Mr. Shaughnessy to honour his achievement.

General Election: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett, "Good Wishes" were wished to Comm. Hynes in the forthcoming general election. Comm. Hynes thanked the members for their good wishes. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed that an appeal be made to all votes to exercise their right to vote.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the following:-

1. Sean O'Regan, Moore Street, Loughrea.
2. Sean Kelly late of Caheronaun, Loughrea.
3. Dolores Greally (Nee Maher), late of Mount Carmel Road, Loughrea.
5. Andy Moloney, Caheronaun Park, Loughrea.
6. Peter Clarke, Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
7. Martina Warde, Attymon.
8. John James Cannon, Attymon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of June, 1997.

James Regan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/6/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Congratulations: Comm. Barrett congratulated Comm. Morgan on having given 30 years continuous service as a Town Commissioner. All present paid tribute to Comm. Morgan for his work on behalf of the community. Comm. Morgan replied in a suitable manner.

General Election: The successful candidates in the recent General Election, namely Paul Connaughton, Michael Kitt, Noel Treacy and Ulick Burke in particular, were congratulated on their success. Commiserations were extended to the unsuccessful candidates particularly Joe Callanan and local man Comm. Pat Hynes. Comm. Regan suggested that the four successful deputies be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

Polling Booths & Register: All members expressed their annoyance and anger that people who were advised by polling cards that their place of voting was St. Ita's N.S., discovered on arrival at the polling booth, that their vote was in fact at St. Brendan's Home. Mr. Nelson stated that the County Registrar has sole responsibility for the selection of polling booths. The Co. Council's function is to print the Register. On the instruction of the Co. Registrar, the Council also prints the polling cards and these are then issued by the Co. Registrar. The Town Clerk stated that this had occurred at previous elections and as a result he had, on the instructions of the Members, written to the County Secretary and suggested that only residents of St. Brendan's Home be asked to vote there and that all others be requested to vote at St. Ita's N.S. He had done this and the County Secretary had conveyed this request to the County Registrar. Comm. Hynes alleged that peoples' names were wrongly removed from the Register while the names of deceased people were left on and also that forms were not readily available for people to apply to get on the supplementary list. Mr. Nelson explained that the Co. Council prepares a Draft Register, Revision Courts at which the County Registrar adjudicates, are held to review this Draft Register. If the members are aware of any specific cases they should refer them to the County Secretary. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should convey the grievances expressed by the members to the County Secretary.

Presentation: Mr. Coleman Shaughnessy who at a previous meeting was congratulated on being selected to captain the Irish Fishing Team that will compete in the 17th World Fly Fishing Championship in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, on 17/9/97, was presented with a scroll by the Chairman in honour of his achievement.

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6. Peter Clarke, Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
7. Martina Warde, Attymon.
8. John James Cannon, Attymon.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of June, 1997.

James Regan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/6/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

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Corry's Field: A deputation from the Upper Coscorrig Action Group, consisting of Pat & Ber Grace and Mary Burke was received by the meeting. Mr. Grace read a letter to the meeting setting out their objections to the proposed development of Corry's Field. The members agreed to meet with the residents on site on Tuesday 10th June at 7/30 p.m. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Padraic Redmond, County Council Architect, presented a display of photographs setting out how Corry's Field might look at various stages. It was agreed that Mr. Redmond and Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer would attend a meeting of the Loughrea Amenity Group on Tuesday 17th June.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Donnellan, the minutes of the meeting held on the 12/5/97 were adopted and signed as correct.

Tidy Towns: The Tidy Towns Committee presented each member with a copy of its first Annual Newsletter. Mr. Nelson congratulated the Tidy Towns Committee on issuing its own Newsletter and added that the Co. Council fully appreciates efforts such as this. Comm. Gunter-Nix as Chairperson of the Tidy Towns Committee invited all the members to the A.G.M. which is arranged for Wed. 11th June.

Crannogs on the Lake: The Dept. of Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht in its letter dated 28/5/97 stated that the Crannogs on the lake are listed on the Sites & Monuments Record but are not protected under the National Monuments legislation. This situation will change later in the year by the provisions of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The letter also stated that Crannogs should benefit from high water levels. It was agreed to make a copy of this letter available to Galway Co. Co. and to Comm. Morgan.

Loughrea Branch Library: The County Council in its letter dated 13/5/97, stated that it had forwarded its proposals for the conversion of the former Church of Ireland building in Loughrea to a branch library and is awaiting a decision re funding of same.

A.M.A.I.: The Town Clerk read notice of intention to hold a special meeting of the A.M.A.I. on the 14/6/97 in the Green Isle Hotel, Clondalkin. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate one person to contest a seat on the Administrative Panel at the Seanad General Election. The delegates expenses for this meeting will have to be bourn by the Board. On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Barrett it was unanimously agreed that the Board's two delegates should attend.

"One Stop Shops": Clr. Michael J. Joy, President of the A.M.A.I., wrote to the various delegates informing them that County Managers have been requested to establish project teams for moving towards a one stop shop approach in their areas. Mr. Nelson stated that a committee, under Mr. Tom Kavanagh, is set up in Galway to examine the proposal. The idea is to have all services available under the one roof. It was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Loughnane, seconded by Comm. Morgan to inform the County Manager that Loughrea Town Commissioners favour the proposal.

Date of Annual Meeting: On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting on Monday 23/6/97.

Expenses of Members: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley, members expenses as set out in Cir. Letter LG 6/97, were unanimously approved. The new rate for Town Commissioners is £436 from 1/1/96.

Motions submitted by Comm. Teresa Moloney:-

- a. I will propose at the June Loughrea Town Commissioners meeting that Galway Co. Council inform this Board of the type of traffic survey it was carrying out at the West Bridge and also opposite the boathouse on Thursday, May 29th. last. Mr. Diskin stated that the survey was carried out by an independent group as part of the Galway Transportation & Planning Study Scheme.
- b. I will propose at the June Loughrea T.C. meeting that road cleaning services be provided at the Coscorrig/Tullahill road as far as the town boundary. Weed killer needs to be sprayed between the kerb and the road. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett. Mr. Diskin stated that the mechanical sweeper comes to town on a weekly and he endeavours to get as much done as possible. He will investigate the possibility of cleaning this road.

- c. I will propose at the June T.C. meeting that the pier at the furthest point at the Long Point be immediately inspected as the wooden piece where the water laps against it is extremely slippery and may cause injuries. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett. Mr. Diskin stated that he is trying to obtain a suitable type material to attach to these boards.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday, 9 June, 1997, I will propose:-

- a. That Loughrea Town Commissioners recommend to Galway County Council that they sell their offices at Barrack St., Loughrea together with their store in the Brewery Yard and from the proceeds purchase a site at Loughrea Mart Industrial Estate & build new offices & storage thereon. Comm. Morgan stated that he wished to change this motion. The storage depot could still go to the mart but he felt that the offices should be located in the town centre and he suggested in the car park at Main Street. Comm. Morgan stated that existing accommodation is not adequate. Mr. Diskin stated that he has no difficulty with the existing premises, which can be extended. The size and location of office accommodation is a matter for the Co. Manager. Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that the Co. Council will note the comments of the members.

- b. That Loughrea Town Commissioners recommend to Galway County Council that they sell sites at the old dump, which they purchased from Loughrea Town Commissioners some years ago; or build houses thereon.

This was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

- c. That the Taoiseach and Government be requested to change the present law which allows Custom Officers to confiscate motor vehicles, even in the middle of the night; and in isolate areas; leaving the occupant or occupants on the side of the road in great danger - keeping in mind that any law which puts the life of a citizen at risk is unconstitutional.

There was no seconder for this motion.

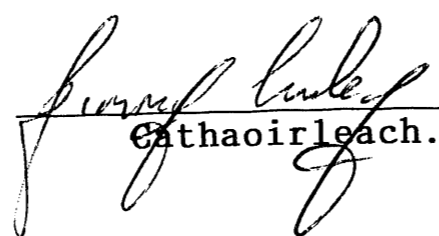
Wall at Westbridge: Comm Donnellan referred to a wall at the Westbridge which was recently damaged as a result of a traffic accident. Comm. Donnellan asked if this wall could be lowered a bit when it is being repaired so as to improve the view coming out of Dolphin Street. Mr. Diskin stated that he was of the same mind himself and he intends to lower this wall.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The Joynt family, Cross St., on the death of Bill.
2. Mr. Bernie Griffin, Lake Road on the death of her husband Andy.
3. The Rabbitte & McMahon families, Dunkellin St., on the death of Mrs. Rabbitte.
4. The Monahan family, Ballymana on the death of Winnie Monahan and her sister Bridget Burns.
5. The relatives of the late Jean Sherry, Mount Carmel Road.
6. The Cunningham family, Kilnadeemna on the death of Sean.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 14th day of July, 1997.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 23/6/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Jimmy Curley, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett.

Officials: Mr. Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Thanks: The out-going Cathaoirleach thanked the members for their co-operation during the year. He also praised and thanked the officials, the media and Co. Council worked force for their help. Comm. Gunter-Nix complimented Comm. Regan on the fair and impartial manner he had conducted the meetings often under difficult circumstances. The other members, with the exception of Comm. Morgan, thanked and complimented Comm. Regan on his efforts during the year. The Town Clerk also expressed his thanks to Comm. Regan. Comm. Morgan stated that the past year had been the toughest he had ever experienced and he had taken exception to the manner in which An Cathaoirleach had conducted some of the meetings. An Cathaoirleach stated that he did not propose to lower the dignity of the Chair and he invited proposals for the position of Cathaoirleach.

Election of An Cathaoirleach:-

Comm. Curley was proposed by Comm. Barrett and seconded by Comm. Hynes. Comm. Morgan was proposed by Comm. Moloney and seconded by himself. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:-

For Comm. Curley: Comms. Curley, Barrett, Hynes, Donnellan, Regan and Gunter-Nix. 6 votes.

For Comm. Morgan: Comms. Morgan and Moloney. 2 votes.

Comm. Curley was declared elected.

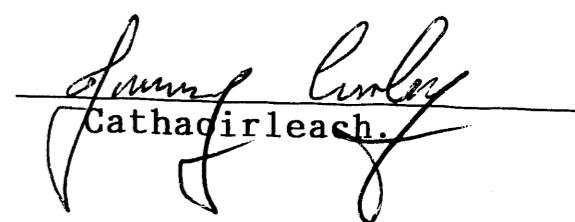
Comm. Curley thanked his proposer and seconder and the members for electing him and assured the meeting of his impartiality for the coming year. He put the bypass and industry for the town as his two priorities for the coming year.

The members assured Comm. Curley of their support for the year.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach: Comm. Gunter-Nix was proposed by Comm. Donnellan and seconded by Comm. Barrett. As there was no other proposal, Comm. Gunter-Nix was declared elected. Comm. Gunter-Nix thanking the members for electing her, stated that they were all elected to do their best for the town and she hoped that they will do this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 14th day of July, 1997.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/7/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Jimmy Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett. *MAT? Loughrea*

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Corry's Fields: The meeting received a deputation from the Upper Coscorrigh Action Group consisting of Mrs. Bernie Grace, Pat Grace and Pete Fahy. Mr. Grace read a letter reiterating the Group's objections to the proposed development of Corry's Field and presented a list of signatures supporting their objections.

In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Grace confirmed that the height and density of the trees is the problem.

Comm. Hynes queried the reference to future legislation. Mrs. Grace in reply stated that Cuscarrick is one of 1,400 National Heritage Areas and with the proposed amendment to the Wild Life Act and future EU legislation, it is possible that thinning of trees would not be allowed. She had spoken to an official of the O.P.W. regarding this.

In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mrs. Grace stated that their alternative plan was prepared by Ms. Anne McKeown.

Comm. Regan queried the number of trees that would be acceptable to the group, Mrs. Grace replied just a few trees.

Comm. Morgan stated that the field should be left as it is for now.

The members of the deputation then left the meeting.

Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she took exception to the insinuation that the young people of Loughrea are not environmental conscious, she resides adjacent to Garrybreeda Park and she has yet to witness any objectionable behaviour by the youth.

An Cathaoirleach suggested a meeting between the Town Engineer, the Co. Co. Architect, himself and the officers of Upper Coscorrigh Action Group.

Comm. Regan objected to this saying that the Amenity Action Group, which represents all the groups in town had by majority decision accepted the Woodland Plan and he felt that it would be wrong to discuss the proposal with a single group.

It was decided to request the Town Engineer to submit a report on the alternative plan to the September meeting.

Polling Booths: In reply to Comm. Barrett the Town Clerk stated that he had no further information regarding the confusion at the polling booths in Loughrea.

It was decided to invite the County Registrar or his representative to the September meeting to discuss this problem.

Branch Library: Comm. Donnellan ~~stated~~ referred to some work taking place in the grounds of the Church of Ireland and he wondered if work had commenced on the new branch library. The reply was in the negative.

Comm. Loughnane suggested meeting the Minister for the Environment to try to expedite matters. Mr. Nelson pointed out that the County Council is the

authority dealing with libraries and he suggested asking the Co. Council to seeking a joint meeting with the Minister.

Loughrea Literary & Historical Society: The Loughrea Literary & Historical Society informed the meeting that it intends to host 6 lectures in O'Dea's Hotel, Loughrea, week ending 29-31 August and it sought a contribution towards the cost of same.

On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to donate one hundred pounds towards the cost of same.

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference: The meeting declined the A.M.A.I. invitation to send any additional representative to its Annual Conference in Birr.

Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Maurice Sweeney, President, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, in his letter of the 10/7/97, pointed out that none of the Commissioners are members of the Chamber of Commerce and he felt that it would be to their mutual benefit if there was more communication between both parties.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed that the Commissioners would pay the membership fee and that the Cathaoirleach of the day would represent the Board.

Loughrea Amenity Dev. Group: In reply to a letter received from the Loughrea A.D.G. it was agreed that An Cathaoirleach and An Leas-Cathaoirleach should represent the Board on the Loughrea A.D.G. It was agreed that in future that representatives would be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

Town Twinning: A letter from Barton-under-Needwood seeking a twinning companion was read. Comm. Moloney suggested sending it to the Chamber of Commerce. Comm. Morgan stated that no one appears to be interested in taking on the task of twinning. The letter was marked read.

Auditors Report 1996: The Town Clerk presented the 1996 Auditors Report to the meeting. Mr. Nelson complimented the Town Clerk and Rent Collector on the report. Members associated themselves with the compliments expressed. Town Clerk replied in a suitable manner.

Motions submitted by Comm. Regan:-

a "I will propose that L.T.C. seek a meeting with Supt. of Garda Siochanna re re-routing of funerals"
This motion was taken in conjunction with the following motion which was submitted by Comm. Barrett:
"To find out why it has been decided to re-route funeral burials."

It was agreed to seek a meeting with Superintendent Lally to discuss same. An Cathaoirleach together with Comms. Regan and Barrett to attend.

b. "I will propose that L.T.C. write to the W.H.B. to find out if and when do they intend to appoint a full-time dentist to the health centre in Loughrea."

Comm. Regan stated that he had also discussed this matter with his colleague, Michael Kitt, T.D. Deputy Kitt ~~had received~~ had made representation and the following is an extract from the reply received from the

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/7/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Jimmy Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett. *MRT? Loughneane*

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Corry's Fields: The meeting received a deputation from the Upper Coscorrig Action Group consisting of Mrs. Bernie Grace, Pat Grace and Pete Fahy. Mr. Grace read a letter reiterating the Group's objections to the proposed development of Corry's Field and presented a list of signatures supporting their objections.

In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Grace confirmed that the height and density of the trees is the problem.

Comm. Hynes queried the reference to future legislation. Mrs. Grace in reply stated that Cuscarrick is one of 1,400 National Heritage Areas and with the proposed amendment to the Wild Life Act and future EU legislation, it is possible that thinning of trees would not be allowed. She had spoken to an official of the O.P.W. regarding this.

In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mrs. Grace stated that their alternative plan was prepared by Ms. Anne McKeown.

Comm. Regan queried the number of trees that would be acceptable to the group, Mrs. Grace replied just a few trees.

Comm. Morgan stated that the field should be left as it is for now.

The members of the deputation then left the meeting.

Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she took exception to the insinuation that the young people of Loughrea are not environmental conscious, she resides adjacent to Garrybreeda Park and she has yet to witness any objectionable behaviour by the youth.

An Cathaoirleach suggested a meeting between the Town Engineer, the Co. Co. Architect, himself and the officers of Upper Coscorrig Action Group.

Comm. Regan objected to this saying that the Amenity Action Group, which represents all the groups in town had by majority decision accepted the Woodland Plan and he felt that it would be wrong to discuss the proposal with a single group.

It was decided to request the Town Engineer to submit a report on the alternative plan to the September meeting.

Polling Booths: In reply to Comm. Barrett the Town Clerk stated that he had no further information regarding the confusion at the polling booths in Loughrea.

It was decided to invite the County Registrar or his representative to the September meeting to discuss this problem.

Branch Library: Comm. Donnellan ~~stated~~ referred to some work taking place in the grounds of the Church of Ireland and he wondered if work had commenced on the new branch library. The reply was in the negative.

Comm. Loughneane suggested meeting the Minister for the Environment to try to expedite matters. Mr. Nelson pointed out that the County Council is the

authority dealing with libraries and he suggested asking the Co. Council to seeking a joint meeting with the Minister.

Loughrea Literary & Historical Society: The Loughrea Literary & Historical Society informed the meeting that it intends to host 6 lectures in O'Dea's Hotel, Loughrea, week ending 29-31 August and it sought a contribution towards the cost of same.

On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to donate one hundred pounds towards the cost of same.

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference: The meeting declined the A.M.A.I. invitation to send any additional representative to its Annual Conference in Birr.

Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Maurice Sweeney, President, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, in his letter of the 10/7/97, pointed out that none of the Commissioners are members of the Chamber of Commerce and he felt that it would be to their mutual benefit if there was more communication between both parties.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed that the Commissioners would pay the membership fee and that the Cathaoirleach of the day would represent the Board.

Loughrea Amenity Dev. Group: In reply to a letter received from the Loughrea A.D.G. it was agreed that An Cathaoirleach and An Leas-Cathaoirleach should represent the Board on the Loughrea A.D.G. It was agreed that in future that representatives would be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

Town Twinning: A letter from Barton-under-Needwood seeking a twinning companion was read. Comm. Moloney suggested sending it to the Chamber of Commerce. Comm. Morgan stated that no one appears to be interested in taking on the task of twinning. The letter was marked read.

Auditors Report 1996: The Town Clerk presented the 1996 Auditors Report to the meeting. Mr. Nelson complimented the Town Clerk and Rent Collector on the report. Members associated themselves with the compliments expressed. Town Clerk replied in a suitable manner.

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This motion was taken in conjunction with the following motion which was submitted by Comm. Barrett:
"To find out why it has been decided to re-route funeral burials."

It was agreed to seek a meeting with Superintendent Lally to discuss same. An Cathaoirleach together with Comms. Regan and Barrett to attend.

- b. "I will propose that L.T.C. write to the W.H.B. to find out if and when do they intend to appoint a full-time dentist to the health centre in Loughrea."

Comm. Regan stated that he had also discussed this matter with his colleague, Michael Kitt, T.D. Deputy Kitt ~~had received~~ had made representation and the following is an extract from the reply received from the

Western Health Board.

"The W.H.B. has advertised for a full time replacement for Dr. Dowling's area and I am hopeful that we will see this replacement interviewed and appointed by the beginning of the new school year, September 1997." Comm. Regan stated that he is happy with this reply.

c. "I propose that L.T.C. hold one of its monthly meetings in St. Brendan's Hospital to mark the 150 anniversary of the famine." This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

Comm. Hynes thought that the Literary & Historical Society might do a paper on the effects of the famine in the Loughrea area. Comm. Morgan pointed out that this was already done.

Mr. Nelson suggested that the Commissioners might bear the cost of having a small paper printed.

The Town Clerk was instructed to contact a Mr. Walter Raftery, a former employee of the W.H.B., now resident in Oranmore, who had done a presentation on the famine.

The following sub-committee was appointed to deal with the matter:- Comms. Loughnane, Hynes, Moloney & Gunter-Nix.

Motions submitted by Comm. Barrett:-

b. "To ask the new Minister for Justice to fill all the vacancies at Loughrea Garda Station due to recent retirements."

Motion seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix and passed unanimously.

c. "That there would be a greater presence of Gardai on our streets on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings."

Motion seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 14 July, 1997, I will propose that Galway Co. Council be requested:

a. "To discontinue dosing Loughrea Town water supply."

Comm. Morgan referred to the fluoridation of water. When the Town Clerk informed the meeting that chlorine is the only chemical used at Loughrea W.W., Comm. Morgan withdrew this motion.

b. "Provide a Traffic Warden service in Loughrea town."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Comm. Loughnane felt that this would lead to a charge for parking and he proposed a direct negative to the motion. This was seconded by Comm. Regan. A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

For: Comms. Morgan, Barrett, Moloney and Gunter-Nix. 4 votes.

Against: Comms. Loughnane, Regan, Donnellan and Curley. 4 votes.

Comm. Hynes abstained.

On the casting vote of An Cathaoirleach, the motion was defeated.

c. "That the Garda Superintendent be requested to prosecute the drivers of vehicles who are driving through the town at excessive speeds."

There was no seconder for this motion.

Bypass Road: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Nelson stated that the design work is ongoing. He will give the up-to-date position at the next meeting.

Gardener: Comm. Gunter-Nix asked when will Loughrea get its gardener. Mr. Nelson stated that he understood that the interviews were held. Comm. Gunter-Nix stressed the need to have the gardener for the summer months.

Western Health Board: Comm. Loughnane proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Michael Ryan, outgoing Chairman of the W.H.B. and he wished the new Chairman, Tom Hussey every success. This was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Galway County Council: Comm. Moloney proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Willie Burke, outgoing Cathaoirleach of Galway Co. Co. and congratulated the new Cathaoirleach, Michael Finnerty and new leas-Cathaoirleach, Michael O'Neill.

Thanks: Comm. Donnellan thanked Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer for lowering the wall over the river at the Westbridge.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The O'Rourke family, Cross St., on the death of John O'Rourke.
2. The Manton family, Bride St., on the death of Michael Manton.
3. The Cunningham family, Carn, on the death of Pakie Cunningham.
4. The Flynn family, Airy Hill, on the death of Thomas Flynn.
5. The relatives of the late Michael Hand.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of September, 1997.

Jimmy Curley
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/9/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Jimmy Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Padraic Redmond, Co. Council Architect, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 14/7/97 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Bypass Road: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that Galway Co. Council has made its submission to the N.R.A. and these are now under consideration. The submission is for a single carriageway as this is what the N.R.A. had requested. It is hoped that the C.P.O. will be underway early in 1998.

Commemoration of Famine: Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that the Loughrea Literary & Historical Society is prepared to provide two speakers on the famine. Town Clerk stated that Mr. Walter Raftery has also indicated that he is available.

Comm. Hynes stated that he had discussed with Mr. Peter Duggan, the possibility of having a historical research carried out under a Fas scheme and he proposed that this be further investigated. Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded this proposal which was unanimously approved by the meeting. Comm. Loughnane informed the meeting that the County Librarian had provided him with a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Guardians held on the 4/9/1847. Comm. Loughnane expressed his thanks to the Co. Librarian for his assistance. *infer ANIA*
Mr. Nelson stated that the western counties are considering appointing an Archivist to deal with the centenary of the L.G. Act of 1898 when it is hoped to computerise all the relevant data. Mr. Nelson also suggested that the County Librarian might be very interested in this research. It was agreed to hold the November meeting in St. Brendan's Home.

Polling Booths: The County Registrar in his letter dated 12/8/97 stated that it is entirely a matter for Galway Co. Council to decide where people should vote, while the Co. Council stated that it is a matter for the County Registrar.

On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Regan, it was decided to send a copy of the letters to the Co. Council solicitor for clarification.

Loughrea Library: The Co. Council in its letter dated 15/8/98 stated that it has forwarded to the Dept. of the Environment, proposals for the conversion of the former Church of Ireland building and it is hoped that a favourable decision will be forthcoming. Comm. Morgan proposed that the Co. Council be asked to repair holes in the roof. It was agreed that Comm. Loughnane would contact the Co. Councillors for the Loughrea area re organising a deputation.

Gardai: The meeting was informed by the Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform that the Garda authorities are responsible for the detailed allocation of Garda personnel. On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to request additional Gardai in the Loughrea area from the Garda authorities.

Re-routing of Funerals: Supt. Martin Lally, Loughrea informed the meeting that the Gardai in Loughrea did not issue any instructions regarding the re-routing of funerals.

A.M.A.I. Annual Conference: The Town Clerk reminded the meeting that the Annual Conference will take place in Birr on 15th - 18th September. He informed the meeting that funds are low and that it may be necessary to over-expend. It was agreed that the two delegates should attend.

Conferences: Notices of the following conferences were read to the meeting

1. "Has the Computer Age Bypassed the Local Councillor" Hosted by Greystone Town Commissioners in Greystones on 3rd - 5th October.
2. "Tourism - Sustainable Development" organised jointly by Clare Tourist Council & Clare County Council in Ennis on 28th & 29th November.

The meeting declined to send delegates to these conferences.

Corry's Field: Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer presented his report on the submission made by the "Upper Cuscorrig Action Group" to the Loughrea Town Commissioners at their meeting held on the 14/7/97, with regard to the development of Corry's Fields. Mr. Nelson stated that it is time to take a decision on what is best to do with Corry's Fields. A petition was handed in which supported the 16 householders. The Loughrea Amenity Group which represents the various bodies in town support the proposed development. The Council had availed of the best professional advise in preparing the plans, which are environmental friendly. Mr. Nelson would now recommend to the Commissioners to take the plan on Board. After further discussion we had a proposal and an amendment:
Proposal which was proposed by Comm. Hynes and seconded by Comm. Morgan:-
That the area be planted with low shrubs and twenty trees.

The Amendment which was proposed by Comm. Donnellan and seconded by Comm. Regan:-

That we go ahead with the plan as presented by the Town Engineer and review same in 12 months time.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For the Amendment: Comms. Donnellan, Regan, Gunter-Nix, Barrett and Loughnane. 5 votes.

Against the Amendment: Comms. Hynes, Morgan and Moloney. 3 votes. Comm. Curley abstained.

An Cathairleach declared the Amendment carried.

Revision of Remuneration - 29th Pay Round Phase 1(i): On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan, an increase of remuneration as per Circular Letter EL 14/97 insofar as it refers to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners, was approved.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/9/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Jimmy Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Padraic Redmond, Co. Council Architect, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 14/7/97 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Bypass Road: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that Galway Co. Council has made its submission to the N.R.A. and these are now under consideration. The submission is for a single carriageway as this is what the N.R.A. had requested. It is hoped that the C.P.O. will be underway early in 1998.

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Corry's Field: Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer presented his report on the submission made by the "Upper Cuscorrig Action Group" to the Loughrea Town Commissioners at their meeting held on the 14/7/97, with regard to the development of Corry's Fields.

Mr. Nelson stated that it is time to take a decision on what is best to do with Corry's Fields. A petition was handed in which supported the 16 householders. The Loughrea Amenity Group which represents the various bodies in town support the proposed development. The Council had availed of the best professional advice in preparing the plans, which are environmental friendly. Mr. Nelson would now recommend to the Commissioners to take the plan on Board. After further discussion we had a proposal and an amendment:

Proposal which was proposed by Comm. Hynes and seconded by Comm. Morgan:-
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The Amendment which was proposed by Comm. Donnellan and seconded by Comm. Regan:-

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For the Amendment: Comms. Donnellan, Regan, Gunter-Nix, Barrett and Loughnane. 5 votes.

Against the Amendment: Comms. Hynes, Morgan and Moloney. 3 votes.
Comm. Curley abstained.

An Cathairleach declared the Amendment carried.

Revision of Remuneration - 29th Pay Round Phase 1(i): On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan, an increase of remuneration as per Circular Letter EL 14/97 insofar as it refers to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners, was approved.

Travelling Expenses - Subsistence Allowances: As set out in Circular Letter EL 15/97 and Circular Letter EL 13/97, were approved for Officers and Members of Loughrea Town Commissioners, on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

People of the Year Awards: On the proposition of Comm. Moloney seconded by Comm. Barrett it was unanimously agreed to nominate Michelle Smith for the People of the Year Awards.

Motions submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:

At the September meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose

a. That Galway County Council include in their Estimates for 1998 sufficient funding to carry out improvements to the road leading to the 27 houses at Cosmona, Loughrea. The work to include provision of a footpath on the right-hand side of the road.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Mr. Diskin stated that this road is included for improvement under the 5 year Plan, if accepted this road will be done next year. The path would entail setting back the fronts of houses which might be costly.

b. That consultations take place between Gardai and Local Authority with a view to making the roads at Garrybreeda and Bohercam one way.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Mr. Diskin stated that the existing Parking Regulations are not exactly as indicated by the signs on the ground. He proposed to review the existing Regulations and taking into consideration the fact that Loughrea has now got 2 car-parks, he will submit a proposal to the local gardai. This was acceptable to the meeting.

c. That Loughrea Town Commissioners urge all concerned to be extra vigilante to ensure that the Loughrea Lake continues to merit Blue Flag status.

Motion seconded by Comm. Regan and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday, 8th September, 1997, I will propose:

a. That the plaque erected by Fr. Fred Mitchell, in August 1948, to the memory of Dr. Joseph Hooban, a native of Galway Road, Loughrea, author of "Dear Old Galway Road" a poem, be re-erected in a prominent position at the Westbridge entrance to Old Galway Road, Loughrea.

After some discussion this motion was deferred.

b. In light of the decision of Loughrea Town Commissioners at their meeting of 14th July, 1997, not to provide a Traffic Warden service in Loughrea town. I will now propose that the appropriate authority abolish all Parking Regulations, all yellow lines and all poles from the town of Loughrea.

There was no seconder for this motion.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Hynes a vote of congratulations was passed to Ms. Olive Loughnane, daughter of Comm. Matt Loughnane, on winning the 5K walk in the A.A.A. Championship. Ms. Loughnane is the first Irish person to win this title. Comm. Loughnane thanked the members for their good wishes which he undertook to convey to his daughter.

Long Point: Comm. Moloney thanked the Town Engineer for carrying out the work on the diving board at the Long Point which appears to have made it much safer for users.

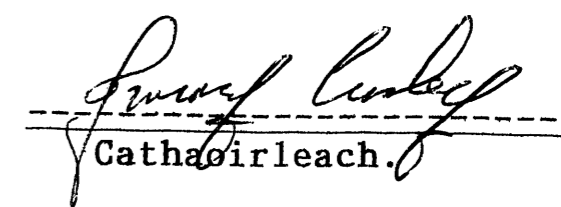
Issue of Postage Stamp: Comm. Morgan stated that An Post are issuing a stamp depicting a stain glass window in the Cathedral, he proposed that An Post be asked to issue this stamp in Loughrea. This was seconded by Comm. Loughnane and passed unanimously.

Abbey Car-park: Comm. Morgan stated that he understands from the Prior, that the Carmelite Fathers are agreeable to lease their car-park to the Co. Council on certain days of the week. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane it was agreed to request the County Council to investigate this possibility.

Bin in Garrybreeda: Comm. Morgan asked the Town Engineer to consider putting a bin at Garrybreeda park.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Dated this the 13th day October, 1997.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/10/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane and Pat Hynes.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer and Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

In accordance with Sections 9 & 10 of the County & City Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, Mr. Tierney presented the Estimate of Expenses for 1998 Year.

The Estimates as presented by Mr. Tierney proposed a rate of 184.68 pence in the pound as compared to a rate of 147.87 pence in the pound for 1997.

Mr. Tierney explained that the increase is due mainly to an increased provision for parks and open spaces in addition to provision for local elections which are due to be held in 1998 and an contribution of £500.00 to the Chamber of Commerce towards the cost of Christmas lighting.

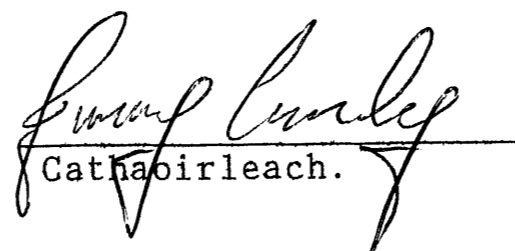
On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Moloney the following were unanimously resolved:

1. That the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/98 as set forth at A, B & C on the Form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.
2. That the Demand be made on Galway Co. Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of 29,640.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/98 and that the Form of Demand be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

The Form of Estimate and the Form of Demand were both signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting.

Signed this the 10 day of November, 1997.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/10/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting open with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Comm. Loughnane proposed a short adjournment of the meeting as a mark of respect to the late Seamus Guider, a former member of Ballinasloe U.D.C. This was seconded by Comm. Hynes and unanimously agreed.

New Assistant County Manager: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that Mr. John Tierney has been appointed as Assistant County Manager and he will be dealing with the Town Commissioners. Mr. Nelson introduced Mr. Tierney to the members. Mr. Tierney was welcome by An Cathaoirleach and the respective members. The members also expressed their thanks to Mr. Nelson for his efforts on behalf of the town and for the courtesy he had shown to them over the past few years.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8/9/97 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix.

Comm. Morgan informed the meeting that he is about to go into hospital and he requested the meeting to deal with the motions before he left. This was agreed.

Motions submitted by Comm. Matt Loughnane: Comm. Loughnane submitted two motions dealing with Corry's Field:

1. "I will propose that Loughrea Town Commissioners instruct the Manager not to plant the proposed three and a half acres of woodland at Corry's Field."
2. "I will propose that Loughrea Town Commissioners resolve that in accordance with Section 3 of the City & County Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, this Commission direct that the establishment of three and a half acres of woodland at Corry's Field, Gort Road, Loughrea, shall not be proceeded with."

Comm. Loughnane stated that since the last meeting he had given this matter serious consideration and he now was of the opinion that three and a half acres of woodland should not be planted in Corry's Field. As his motions more or less overlapped each other he now proposes to withdraw the first motion and proceed with the second motion. This was seconded by Comm. Morgan. In reply to Comm. Gunter-Nix, Mr. Tierney stated that under the 1994 L.G. Act, Comm. Loughnane's motion is in order and if carried it will over rule the decision taken at the September meeting.

Mr. Tierney stated that together with the Town Engineer he had looked at Corry's Field. He added that to meet some of the fears, the Town Engineer had suggested a modification of the plan. Mr. Diskin stated that in the proposed plan the distance between the two groups of trees is 82 metres, by not planting the point of each group this distance could be increased to 156 metres. After further discussion the motion was put to the meeting and the voting resulted as follows:-

For Comms. Loughnane: Comms. Loughnane, Morgan, Moloney and Hynes.

Against: Comms. Gunter-Nix, Regan, Donnellan and Barrett.

An Cathaoirleach stated that he was voting for Comms. Loughnane's motion and he declared Comm. Loughnane's motion carried by 5 votes to 4.

Motions submitted by Comm. Morgan:-

1. "That Galway County Council be asked to give an account on what action was taken against the developer who took over and fenced off seven feet of the east end of the Church of Ireland Cemetery, Loughrea, together with the result of such of any action taken."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and it was decided to refer same to Galway County Council.

2. "That Galway County Council be asked why it granted planning permission to block off part of Loughrea Cathedral building, which, as well as being a house of worship also has the distinction of being Ireland's treasure house of Irish stained glass windows, sculptures, wrought iron and wood-carvings."

3. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners object to the sale by Bishop Kirby, of ground at the north-west corner of the Temperance Hall, Loughrea, or of any part of Temperance Hall property."

There was no seconder for Motions 2 or 3.

Comm. Morgan excused himself from the meeting.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:-

1. That Loughrea Town Commissioners request Mr. Joseph Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer with the Western Health Board to provide an All-Night Ambulance service for the town and surrounding districts based at St. Brendan's Hospital"

This motion was seconded by Comm. Jimmy Curley and passed unanimously.

2. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners should set aside a sum of money when preparing the estimates to acknowledge the amount of voluntary work that is done in our town."

Mr. Tierney pointed out that the provision is made in the Estimates for contributions to certain local groups, the County Council also operate an Amenity grant scheme and he suggested that the end result might not justify the work load involved. No further action was taken.

Archivist: Mr. Nelson referred to the proposed appointment of an Archivist for the western counties as mentioned in the Minutes and pointed out that it would be more correct to state that this Archivist will, inter alia be dealing with the L.G. Act of 1898.

Polling Booths: In reply to Comm. Barrett, the Town Clerk stated that he has no further information re the allocation of polling booths.

Commemoration of Famine: Comm. Hynes stated that he was in touch with Mr. Pat Bergin who is in charge of the Community Response Schemes with regard to setting up a FAS Scheme to write the history of Loughrea, this would include the famine period. He intends to discuss this matter with the Loughrea Literary & Historical Society. The Town Clerk stated that the Literary & Historical Society has confirmed that Dr. Murphy & Mr. Walter Raftery will speak on the famine and its effects on Loughrea.

It was agreed to hold the November meeting in St. Brendan's Hospital at 6 p.m. and if it is acceptable to the Western Health Board, the talk will take place in the same venue at 8/30 p.m. Should St. Brendan's not be available for the talk it was agreed to have it in O'Dea's Hotel at 8/30.

St. Brendan's Cathedral: Fr. Cathal Geraghty in his letter of the 13/10/97 invited the Commissioners to a commemoration mass, commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of St. Brendan's Cathedral, which will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 9th, 1997. The chief celebrant will be Most Rev. John Kirby, Bishop of Clonfert.

Comm. Donnellan suggested that the Commissioners and Town Clerk should meet outside prior to the mass and attend en bloc.

The Town Clerk excused himself saying that he has a prior arrangements.

Garda Presence: The Asst. Garda Commissioner in his letter of the 6/10/97, assured the meeting that the local Garda Management are aware of the policing needs of Loughrea and the policing arrangements in Loughrea are continually monitored and reviewed. Comm. Barrett welcome this reply and also the additional garda presence on the streets of Loughrea.

Loughrea Swimming Pool: A letter from Mr. Gabriel Burke, Chairman of Loughrea Swimming Pool, seeking a grant of 50,000.00 from Loughrea Town Commissioners was read to the meeting. The letter outlined the progress to date together with its future proposals for the pool. After Comm. Hynes had proposed to give this money, Mr. Nelson pointed out that there is a national budget of £3m for swimmingpools. When the financial proposals set out in the letter are achieved, the Commissioners could then consider their options. Money is going to be needed to develop the centre of the town under Urban Renewal Schemes. He could not recommend any grant aid at this stage.

It was decided to defer the matter for now.

Library: Comm. Loughnane submitted a letter from Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment to Mr. Michael Kitt, T.D. in connection with meeting a deputation about Loughrea library. Mr. Dempsey indicated that he will write again to Mr. Kitt as soon as possible.

Flooding at Cuscarrick: Mr. Nelson informed the meeting that in order to relieve flooding in the Cuscarrick area it will be necessary to lay pipes through Corry's Field to take surface water. Mr. Diskin stated that it is hoped to commence this work within the next two weeks.

Urban Renewal Grant: Mr. Diskin stated that now that the tree planting is not taking place at Corry's Field there could be a balance left in the Urban Renewal Grant; If this is the case Mr. Diskin sought permission to providing a parking area on the west end of the tennis court to cater for 10/15 cars.
On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Barrett this was agreed.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:-

The Guider family Ballinasloe on the death of Seamus Guider.

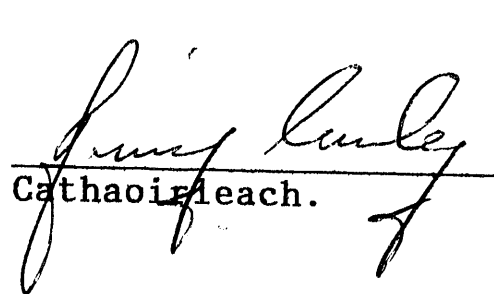
The Holland family, Coorheen, on the death of Vincent Holland.

Garda John Kenna, Loughrea on the death of his father.

The Keane family, Colesgrove, Craughwell on the death of John Keane.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 10th day of November, 1997.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/11/97.

This meeting was held at 6 p.m. in St. Brendan's Hospital to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Great Famine. A talk on The Famine, hosted by the Town Commissioners and Loughrea Literary & Historical Society, was held in O'Dea's Hotel at 8/30 p.m. The talk was given by Dr. James Murray.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Welcome: Mrs. B. Moorhead, Acting Matron, on behalf of the Matron and staff, welcome the Commissioners to St. Brendan's. An Cathaoirleach and the other members thanked Sr. Moorhead for her welcome and referred to the excellent work carried out at St. Brendan's from its very early days as a Workhouse to its present standing as a modern day home for the elderly.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the Minutes of the Estimates Meeting and the Monthly Meeting both of which were held on the 13/10/97, were adopted and signed as correct.

Library: Comm. James Regan asked if Loughrea was replaced by Oranmore at top of the library priority list. Comm. Regan added that he understood that a budget of £70,000 is being made available for Oranmore. Mr. Tierney stated that the estimated cost of converting the Church of Ireland premises in Loughrea to a library is £600,000 whereas the overall national budget for libraries is £2m. Mr. Tierney confirmed that the matter was discussed at an Area Meeting of Galway Co. Council but that no decision was taken to change the priority list. Comm. Loughnane stated that in Minister Dempsey's letter, the availability of £70,000 for Oranmore was contingent to Oranmore being first on the priority list.

Mr. Tierney undertook to have the up to date position for the next meeting

Dispute re Church of Ireland Ground: The meeting was informed by Galway Co. Council that this matter was settled in court. Comm. Morgan claimed that the terms of the settlement were not carried out and he asked Mr. Tierney to get Galway Co. Council to restore the wall.

Garda Presence: A letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform dated 16/10/97 was read to the meeting. This letter pointed out that the garda strength in Loughrea had increased by one since 31/12/96. The letter also referred to the large number of young people who come into the town on Saturday nights to attend discos. These people tend to converge on Supermacs after the discos. The Garda claim that it is around these premises that the unsocial behaviour occurs. The letter pointed out that Supermac's planning permission stipulates that it should close at 12/30 a.m., this does not happen but the garda are not aware of the Council having brought any prosecutions against Supermacs. Comm. Barrett stated that it is not fair to blame Supermacs for the

incidents as he felt that more gardai were needed. Comm. Barrett felt that matters have improved. Comm. Donnellan pointed out that the incidents are not confined to Supermacs.

Outer Coscorrig Residents Association: The Outer Coscorrig Residents Association in their letter dated 7/11/97 sought permission to have an input at all levels of discussion should any future development be proposed for Corry's Field. The meeting refused this request.

Conferences: The meeting decided against sending delegates to the following conferences:-

Social Housing Conference in Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Galway on 13th & 14th November, 1997.

Developing a Sport & Recreation Strategy in Kylemore Park Hotel, Dublin on Tuesday 9th December, 1997.

Carpark: Mr. Tierney reminded the members that they had agreed at last months meeting to the provision of a carpark at the western end of the Tennis Court field and formal approval is not sought for same. Mr. Diskin presented his proposal for 31/32 parking spaces in this area and stated that work would need to commence immediately. Comm. Regan proposed that the work should commence and this was seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix. A direct negative was proposed by Comm. Morgan but received no seconder.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

a. "That Galway County Council be asked to provide a Traffic Warden at Loughrea and to put an end to the practise of women with children in their push-cars being forced off the footpaths and out onto the roads in face of oncoming motor cars."

This motion got no seconder.

b. "That C.I.E. be requested to have the Bullaun-Kilrickle-Mullagh school bus, which drops students at the ESB Office at approx. 9. 10 a.m. to go directly to the Vocational School instead of having said students walk the 3/8 of a mile in the rain, keeping in mind that said bus is free from that time until the evening run and that St. Raphael's College students be dropped off on the way."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and unanimously approved.

c. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners make a positive and encouraging gesture to Loughrea Swimming Pool Development, now at this crucial time when it is being decided whether or not Loughrea will have an indoor swimming, by allocating a sum of #10,000 to the project."

Mr. Tierney stated that he is meeting with the Swimming Pool Committee and that a number of matters have to be clarified. Comm. Morgan stated that it is important that the Commissioners are seen to support the Swimming Pool project.

The Town Clerk was instructed to inform the Swimming Pool Committee that Loughrea Town Commissioners wish to make a positive and encouraging

gesture to Loughrea Swimming Pool Development Committee and with this in mind the Commissioners agree in principle with the swimming pool proposal and they wish to confirm that they will make a contribution to the development of the pool when funding for same is approved by the Department of the Environment.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:

a. "I will propose that Galway County Council put a pedestrian crossing at the West Bridge."
This was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Mr. Diskin agreed that there are difficulties at the Westbridge, any proposals would require the approval of the N.R.A. Mr. Diskin agreed to take the matter up with the Council's Road Design section.

b. "I will propose that our four T.D.s be invited to our January meeting re the needs of Loughrea."
This was seconded by Comm. Barrett and unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that a prepared agenda would be drawn up at the December meeting and forwarded to each of the T.D.s

c. "I will propose that our Town Engineer, Mr. John Diskin, be asked to look at the public lighting in our town and have it ready for the January meeting."
This was seconded by Comm. Barrett and unanimously agreed.

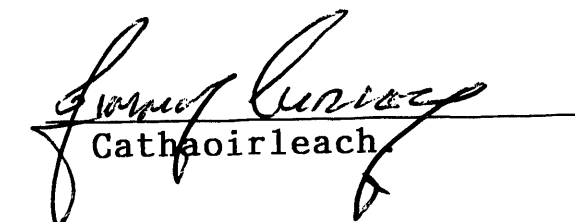
Parking: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Diskin stated that he had reported on the proposal for the car park in Dunkellin Street. With regard to the proposed limited use of the Abbey car park, Mr. Diskin stated that he had discussed the proposal with the Prior who had stated that the Abbey Fathers are having second thoughts on the matter. Mr. Diskin also stated that agreement has been reached with the Gardai as to where parking restrictions should be in Loughrea and this is now in the system for inclusion in the parking regulations.

Student Employment Scheme: On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Barrett it was unanimously agreed to support the following resolution submitted by Portlaoise Town Commissioners: "That this Commission call on the Minister for Social Welfare to re-examine the eligibility for the Student Employment Scheme."

Congratulations: Comm. Gunter-Nix proposed a vote of congratulations to all concerned with the Centenary celebrations, commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of St. Brendan's Cathedral, which were held on Sunday November 9th, 1997 at 3 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of December, 1997.


Cathaoirleach

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/12/97.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Messers Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Welcome: An Cathaoirleach welcomed the County Manager, Mr. O'Donoghue to the meeting.

Vote of Sympathy: Comm. Hynes proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Michael Hynes, Gort Road. Comm. Hynes stated that the late Mr. Hynes's father, who was also named Michael, was a member of the Board for many years.

Church of Ireland Premises: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Tierney stated that he is having the damaged wall examined by the Housing Engineer. Mr. Tierney also stated that the County Council had discussions with Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment, regarding the provision of libraries within the county. The estimates cost of converting the Church of Ireland property into a library is #600,000.00. In order to avail of the #70,000.00 which is currently available, the County Council had agreed to up grade Oranmore to No 1 on the priority list and it would then revert to its No.3 position. Comm. Regan stated that this a contradiction to the Minister's statement when he met them in Loughrea. Comm. Gunter-Nix stressed the need for a modern library and expressed disappointment with the reports to hand, she suggested that perhaps alternative sites should be looked at, a suggestion which found favour with Comms. Hynes and Donnellan, the Town Hall being mentioned as an alternative site. The County Manager, Mr. O'Donoghue stated that the national budget for libraries is #2.5m. while there are projects with the Department to the value of #15m. The Council is meeting Department officials in the New Year. It is quite possible that other options may have to be looked at.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney stated that he had met Mr. Gay Burke, Chairman of the Swimming Pool Committee. It is proposed to submit a more detailed proposal to the Department via the Council. Comm. Barrett complimented the Swimming Pool Committee on the success of it draw.

Car Parks: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Diskin stated that the Council had examined the premises at Dunkellin St. It transpired that the unit cost of spaces is prohibited while access onto Dunkellin St. is not desirable. Two other properties would have to be acquired to get access onto Dolphin St. Comm. Loughnane stressed the need for adequate parking when development is taking place. Mr. O'Donoghue stated that approximately #300,000.00 was invested in car parks in Loughrea. It may be necessary to improve the management of these car parks so that there are available to people who wish to do business in the town.

In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Diskin stated that work on the car park at the Gort Road is being carried out under the Urban Renewal Scheme, it should be ready for use soon and will be finished under the first phase of the 1998 scheme.

Bypass Road: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the County Council is awaiting approval from the N.R.A. to the proposed design of the bypass. A further survey was carried out by the N.R.A. to determine the type of carriageway. Mr. O'Donoghue stated that the Co. Council Officials had put in a tremendous effort to get the proposals to the N.R.A. who are now considering whether they should have a dual or single carriageway.

Cuscarrick Drainage: Comm. Loughnane complimented Mr. Diskin in having the drainage works carried out at Cuscarrick. The other members joined in the tributes paid to Mr. Diskin for the amount of work he had carried out in the town. Mr. O'Donoghue commented that he is very well aware that Mr. Diskin is an excellent official.

Bend Opposite St. Brigid's Vocational School: The meeting was informed that the Co. Council had acquired the land to improve this bend and work will commence as soon as funds are made available.

Path at Mount Carmel Crescent: The path cannot be extended as there is a problem with regard to title to the land required.

Public Lighting: The Co. Council in its letter dated 1/12/97 stated that funds for public lighting would be best spent in the town rather than at Mount Pleasant/Masonbrook which is a semi rural location. Comm. Moloney did not agree with this opinion and asked that the matter be reconsidered.

Election Days: The following motion from Gorey Town Commissioners was marked read.

"To request the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to make the necessary arrangements to hold all future Local, General and Presidential Elections on Sundays."

Proposed Meeting with Dail Representatives: The meeting agreed to have the following items on the agenda for the proposed meeting with the four local Dail Deputies at the January meeting.
By Pass; Water & Sewerage; Factory; Tax Designation; Swimming Pool; Library; Car Parks; Heritage; Decentralisation of Government Departments; Future Role of Local Government.

Condition of Footpaths: Comm. Morgan stated that a contractor employed by the Co. Council to fit meter boxes had left some footpaths in a dangerous condition. Mr. Diskin stated that no complaints were received in the local office but he will have the matter investigated.

Housing: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that the announcement by Minister Molloy of 20 new houses for Loughrea is probably a scheme by Respond for 1998. Mr. Tierney in reply to Comm. Loughnane, stated that some land is left for low cost sites in Loughrea. Mr. Tierney emphasised that the Council is on the look out of land for housing within the county as the Council wished to increase its landbank within the county.

Congratulations: Comm. Donnellan proposed a vote of congratulation to St. Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society for its production of "Anything Goes".
This was unanimously approved.

Conferences: The meeting decided not to send delegates to the following Seminars:

1. Seminar entitled "Partnership Approach Can It Work for Local Government" to be held in The Talbot Hotel, Wexford on Feb. 13th & 14th February, 1998. Hosted by the A.M.A.I.
2. Seminar in Sligo on January 23/24 hosted by General Council of County Councils entitled "Planning - Progress or Paralysis?"
- 2.

Thanks: The County Manager, Mr. O'Donoghue thanked the members for giving so unselfishly and voluntarily of their time and energy on behalf of the community and said that the Council Officials and himself very much appreciate their efforts.

Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. Carmel Hynes, Gort Road, on the death of her brother Michael.
2. Peggy Morgan, The Hill, on the death of her husband Joe.
3. The Donnellan Family, Ballinagrieve, on the death of ^{Rahe} St. Fallon.
4. Pat Collins, Cosmona on the death of his wife.

R. FANON FAMILY - death of RAZALA

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day January, 1998.

J. Curley
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/1/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes and Matt Loughnane.

Public Representatives: Mr. Noel Treacy T.D., Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce, Mr. Michael Kitt T.D., Mr. Paul Cannoughton T.D. and Mr. Ulick Burke T.D.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin B.E., Town Engineer and Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 8/12/97 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Welcome: An Cathaoirleach in welcoming the four Public Representatives to the meeting referred to the prearranged agenda and stated that he proposes to commence the meeting by discussing the following - Proposed Bypass Road; Water & Sewerage; Factory; Tax Designation; Swimming Pool; Library; Car Parks; Heritage; Decentralisation of Government Departments; Future role of Local Government.

Bypass Road: The most recent information available seems to indicate that the bypass road will be a dual carriageway with graded separation of traffic as against roundabouts. The consensus was that work would commence in 1999.

On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to request the Co. Council to provide for a link up between the Dublin Road and the Masonbrook Road as part of the bypass scheme.

Water & Sewerage: The meeting was unanimous that Loughrea is in urgent need of a new sewerage scheme. Deputy Connaughton stated that priority is agreed between the Co. Council and the D.O.E. and #3m. is earmarked for a new treatment works. New Contract Documents are required and when these are prepared pressure should be brought to bear on the Minister. Comm. Hynes stated that the area requires a Senior Minister and he suggested that Minister Treacy should be promoted.

Factory: An Cathaoirleach stated that prior to Christmas there were 996 unemployed in the Loughrea area. Comm. Moloney asked the 4 Public Representatives what are their aspirations for Loughrea. Deputy Connaughton referred to the amount of industry being attracted to Galway city and expressed the opinion that the other areas should get some consideration. Deputy Burke stated that he is not convinced that the I.D.A. are serious regarding securing industry for the county towns. Deputy Kitt stated that the I.D.A. has 4.5 acres of land left in Loughrea. Minister Treacy referred to the success of the indigenous companies such as Cigna, Chanelle, Durelle, Schlegal etc. and pointed out that it is vital that the infrastructure is right.

It was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Curley to invite the I.D.A. to a meeting of the Board. The Public Representatives stated that they are expected at another meeting in Ballinasloe and asked to be excused. Before they left it was agreed on the proposal of Comm. Regan to invite them back in 6 months time to review the progress.

Public Lighting: In reply to a query from Comm. Regan, Mr. Diskin outline the public lighting needs of the town as follows:-

1. **Cosmona Estate:** 4 X 55W lights on existing poles plus 1 X 55W light on new pole. Total Cost #1,174.50
2. **Dolphin Street:** 1 X 55W light wall mounted; 1 55W light on new pole; 2 X 55W lights on existing poles. Total Cost #1,039.50
3. **Cuscorrig Estate:** 5 X 55W lights on new poles. Total Cost #2,722.50
4. **Old Galway Road:** 13 X 55W lights on existing poles; 2 X 55W lights on new poles. Total Cost #3,136.50
5. **Athenry Road:** 9 X 135W lights on new columns; 1 X 135W light on existing pole; possibly 1 X 135W on new pole. Total Cost #9,000.00
6. **Gort Road:** 16 existing 55W lights. Underground installation with 40 lights. Total Cost #33,750.00.

Comm. Gunter-Nix thanked Mr. Diskin for his very comprehensive report and asked what are the prospects of getting this type of lighting. Mr. Tierney stated that the money is not yet allocated but the general run is about #3,000.00 per area.

Car Park at Dunkellin Street: Comm. Morgan stated that he disagrees with the Council claim that the cost of acquiring a parking site at Dunkellin Street is prohibitive and he suggested that the Council should have a rethink on the matter. Mr. Diskin stated that the Co. Council had given very serious consideration to the matter and had decided that the cost is prohibitive.

Water Meters on Footpaths: The Co. Council in its letter of the 5/1/98, stated that it had informed the contractor, Pat Folan & Son, that if the footpaths are not properly restored by mid January, the Council will complete them from the retention money.

Conferences: The meeting decided not to send delegates to the following:-

1. Ireland The Implications of a Reduction in Structural Funding Post 1999 to be held in Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan, Feb. 20 & 21 1998.
2. "BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE" in Royal Hotel, Bray on 24/25 Apr. 1998
3. "Partnership Approach can it work for Local Government" Hosted by the A.M.A.I. in Talbot Hotel, Wexford on February, 13 & 14, 1998.
4. "Strengthening the Economy of Peripheral Regions through Human Resources and Infrastructural Development" Hosted by Donegal Co.Co. etc. in Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, on Feb. 26/27th., 1998.

5. "Towards the Enterprise Society-Enhancing the Trends" Hosted by Enre Enterprise Dev.Co. Ltd. in Allingham Arms Hotel, Bundoran, Mar.5/6 1998.

Members Expenses: Members expenses as set out in Circular Letter LG 13/97 was approved on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley.

Telephone Kiosks: Comm. Hynes stated that he was approached by residents in Dunkellin St. with a view to having the telephone kiosks removed from this area as they are a source of annoyance to the residents. There was no support for this suggestion.

Hospital Service: Comm. Regan stated that he wished to highlight an incident that occurred at U.C.H.G. on the 6/7 January last where a person from Loughrea was admitted at 2/30 p.m. but did not receive a bed until 7 a.m. the following morning. Comm. Regan proposed that the matter be brought to the attention of the Minister. Comm. Morgan seconded the proposal.

Window Displays: Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to the decorative and creative manner in which the shop windows were presented for the Christmas and she proposed a vote of congratulations to all concerned.

Public Lighting: Comm. Morgan asked that the lights in "The Walks" be repaired. He also suggested that a light be provided at the exit from The Walk towards the Abbey.

Motion submitted by Comm. Loughnane:-

"I will propose that the Commission request the C.E.O. of the Western Health Board to indicate when a dentist will be appointed at Loughrea Health Centre."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

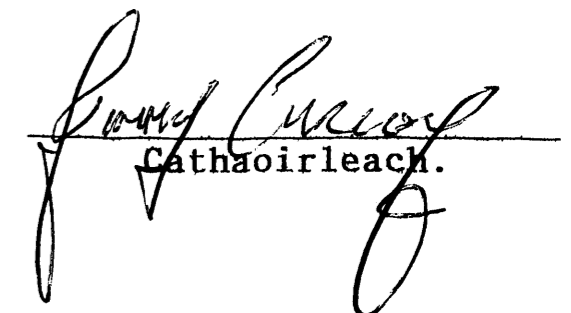
Gardener: In reply to Comm. Donnellan, Mr. Diskin stated that a gardener is appointed and intends to commence work on the 19/1/98. The Commissioners welcomed this news.

Votes of Sympathy: Sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. James Staunton and family of Moore Street on the death of Mary.
2. The Tully family Bohercom on the death of Anne.
3. The Reilly family, Galway Road on the death of their mother Maureen.
4. Jack Carty & family Caheronaun on the death of Agnes.
5. The relatives of the late Paddy Farrell a native of Kilrickle.

This concluded the business of the Board.

Signed this the 9th day of February, 1998


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on he 9/2/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin B.E., Town Engineer and Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Regan, the minutes of last meeting held on the 12/1/98 were adopted and signed as correct.

Industry: An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jim Murren of the I.D.A. to the meeting and asked him to outline the thinking of the I.D.A. Mr. Murren thanked the meeting for inviting him and stated that the I.D.A. deals with foreign investment while An Forbairt, County Enterprise Boards etc, deal with the indigenous industries. Mr. Murren emphasised that the investor makes the final decision as to the location of the industry. Mr. Murren added that Loughrea's proximity to Galway, its well educated work force and the attractiveness of Loughrea as a place to live are its strong points with regard to attracting industry. He also felt that the proposed bypass road will further boost Loughrea - a view Comm. Morgan did not agree with. Mr. Murren also referred to the 5.4 acres of industrial land which the I.D.A. has in Loughrea. Comm. Hynes made the point that an advance factory or small units are required to influence investors to come to Loughrea. Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to the rising cost of land in the Loughrea area and stated that the I.D.A. should consider buying now. Mr. Mullen stated that the I.D.A. has no plans to acquire land in the Loughrea area and that advance factories have not been built since 1989. Comm. Loughnane stated that nothing had happened in Loughrea since 1980 and he felt that it is time that the I.D.A. had a fresh look at Loughrea. Comm. Donnellan stated that he was on the last deputation that travelled to Dublin seeking industry and he felt that we had not done enough since then to secure new industry.

Water & Sewerage: Comm. Hynes expressed disappointment that Loughrea had only received £3.8m towards the provision of a new sewerage network despite the fact that the original estimate was £8m. Mr. Tierney stated that the money provided for Loughrea is for work at the plant. Portumna and Tuam had fared better as they qualified for funding under the Cohesion Fund.

Un-employment: Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to the number un-employed in the Loughrea area and she said that it would be interesting to get a break down of the various age groups. Comm. Morgan supported her in this.

Byepass Road: Comm. Moloney referred to the slow progress being made with regard to the proposed byepass road and she asked if all land owners were contacted. Mr. Tierney stated that he expects that the N.R.A. study to be published in March, indications are that the byepass will now be a dual carriageway but he hopes to have further information for the next meeting.

School Bus Depot: Bus Eireann in its letter of the 29/1/98 stated that they have no plans to change the drop off point of the Bullaun/Kilrickle/Mullagh bus. Comm. Gunter-Nix felt that requests of this nature should come through Parents Associations.

A.M.A.I.: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan approval was granted to pay the Annual Subscription of £250.00 to the A.M.A.I.

The A.M.A.I. informed the meeting of its policy in relation to the introduction of Strategic Policy Committee. Its policy recommended that Town Councils should have statutory representations on County Council Strategic Policy Committees. Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Council has decided to set up 5 such Committees, consisting of 2/3 Council representation and 1/3 from outside groups.

Comm. Morgan proposed and Comm. Hynes seconded that this Board support the suggestion that Town Councils have statutory representations on these Committees.

Chamber of Commerce/Christmas Lighting: The Chamber submitted the estimate of expenses with regard to the provision of Christmas Lighting in the town. This was noted by the meeting.

An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that he is not available on the first Tuesday of the month to attend meetings of the Chamber of Commerce. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan, seconded by Comm. Barrett it was agreed the the Vice-Chairperson, Comm. Gunter-Nix, should attend.

Dental Clinic: The Western Health Board by letter dated 20/1/98, acknowledged receipt of representation regarding appointment of dentist to serve the Loughrea area. Further communication is to follow.

Hospital Service: Acknowledgement of complaint regarding an incident at U.C.G. Hospital on 6/7 January last was read. The meeting was not satisfied with the reply and decided to seek a full reply.

Speed Limits: The meeting was informed that Galway Co. Council is about to draw up the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) County Galway Bye-Laws 1998. The meeting was informed that the Bye-Laws do not propose any changes in Loughrea.

Development Plan: Mr. Tierney informed Comm. Hynes that he will have the current position with regard to the Loughrea Town Development Plan for the next meeting.

Conferences: on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was decided not to send delegates to the following conferences:

1. Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. Conference to be held in Bundoran on March 5th & 6th 1998.
2. Local Authority Members Association Annual Conference to be held in Rosslare on 16th - 18th April, 1998.

Library: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that he had discussions with representative from the Dept. of the Environment on the 16/1/98 and he hopes to have something positive regarding the proposed library for the next meeting.

Urban Renewal Scheme: Mr. Tierney stated that a firm of consultants had looked at Loughrea to see would it qualify as a tax designated area under the Integrated Area Plan. Loughrea does not qualify under this plan.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:

a." I will propose that Galway Co. Council put two signs at the Golf Club showing Concealed Entrance.

This was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

The Town Engineer explained that under a planning application this entrance was re-sited to improve the site distance.

It was agreed that the Town Engineer would meet representatives of the golf club to discuss the problem.

b." I will propose that Galway Co. Council put a gate up between the new car park at Main Street and The Walks."

This was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 9th February, I will propose that Galway Co. Council be requested:

a."To investigate the possibility of securing ground from rear of the Old Vocational School, Mt. Carmel Road, Loughrea - the entrance to which, at Dolphin's St., is approximately 100 metres from the Westbridge - for the purpose of providing a Public Car Park thereat."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

b."To provide for a slipway north and south of the Bye-Pass Road at Cosmona railway crossing, so as to allow people who see Loughrea town, when passing, the opportunity to visit the town; and to facilitate those in the town who may find it more convenient to connect with the Dublin-Galway road at this point. Note: Loughrea Town Cannot be seen from the points east or west where it is proposed to turn off the road through Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney.

c."To provide the overcarriage at Cosmona 200 metres to the east - where there are no houses - instead of as proposed, into a large housing estate, thereby causing an unnecessary destruction of the natural environment enjoyed by those residents who lived in this totally residential area over the past eighty years."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Corry's Field: Comm. Moloney requested that the road boundary wall at Corry's Field be lowered. This was referred to Mr. Diskin for his report.

Congratulations: Comm. Donnellan proposed a vote of congratulations to the Lions Club for putting on an excellent concert in the Carmelite Abbey on Sunday 8th February. The Carmelite Fathers were also thanked for allowing the concert to be held in the Abbey church.

Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The Tierney Family, Mount Carmel Crescent on the death of Mick.
2. Mrs. O'Shea, Abbey Terrace, on the death of her brother Brendan Madden.
3. Paul Reilly, Barrack Street, on the death of his sister.
4. Kevin & Oliver McCormack, Galway Road, on the death of their sister.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of March, 1998.

James Curley
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/3/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan and Pat Hynes.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apologies: Comm. Matt Loughnane and John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, An Cathaoirleach referred to the fact that Mr. J.B. Donohoe, Press Representative for many year, is absent due to illness. He wished Mr. Donohoe a speedy and complete recovery to health. All present joined in the good wishes to Mr. Donohoe.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Regan, the minutes of the last meeting held on the 9/2/98, were adopted and signed as correct.

Bye-Pass Road: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that he had no further information on the Bye-Pass Road. The position is as stated at the last meeting.

Town Development Plan: Arising from the Minutes, Mr. Tierney stated that the Town Development Plan for Loughrea is due in 1998, it will probably be put on display early in 1999 and adopted later that year.

Date of April Meeting: Due to the fact that the second Monday in April is Easter Monday it was agreed to hold the April meeting on Monday 20th.

Chamber of Commerce: A letter from the Chamber of Commerce inviting the Town Commissioners to be present on the Reviewing Stand for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was read to the meeting. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Moloney, the Chamber was wished every success with the parade. A copy of the Chamber News was presented to each member.

New Library: The meeting was informed per Mr. Noel Tracey, T.D., Minister of State, that Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment & Local Government, has given approval to seek tenders in respect of Loughrea branch library and agreement to total grant aid of £616,500. The meeting welcomed this news.

Unemployment: The Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in its letter of the 23/2/98 set out the Live Register for Loughrea as follows:

	Males Under 25.	25 and Over.	Females Under 25.	25 and Over.	Total.
Jan. 1998.	119	462	35	374	990
Jan. 1997.	141	449	70	316	976

Decentralisation of Government Departments: Mr. Ulick Burke T.D. submitted for the information of the meeting, the reply which he had received from Mr. Charlie McCreevy T.D., Minister for Finance regarding decentralisation

of Government Departments to Loughrea or Ballinasloe. Comm. Barrett welcomed the positive steps taken by Deputy Burke and added that there are many suitable sites in Loughrea. On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Moloney it was agreed to seek a meeting with Minister McCreevy and in the meantime the Members will lobby their party colleagues.

Town Hall: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that a Feasibility Study is being carried out on the Town Hall and the result should be known within the next few weeks.

Conferences: The meeting decided not to send delegates to the following

1. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - THE WAY FORWARD. Hosted by Ennis U.D.C. 9/5/98.
 2. DARGAN LEGACY CONFERENCE - Hosted by Bray Heritage Centre. April 24/25.
 3. 1798 SEMINAR - Hosted by Youghal U.D.C. 30th April/May 1st.
- Comm. Morgan referred to the stand taken during this period by Loughrea born Peter Finnerty resulting in he being the first person jailed for upholding the freedom of the press and he felt that he should be commemorated in some way. It was agreed that Comm. Morgan would carry out some research into the late Mr. Finnerty and report back to the meeting in due course.

Abstract of Accounts 1997 Year: The Town Clerk presented the Abstract of Accounts in respect of the 1997 year. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett the Abstract was approved.

Motion submitted by Comm. James Regan:

"I will propose at the March meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners that Galway County Council prepare a 5 Year Plan for footpaths in our town."
Comm. Barrett seconded this motion.

Motions submitted by Comm. Oliver Barrett:

- a. "That the appropriate Minister, bring in or enforce the law which compels the owners of heavy duty machinery such as J.C.Bs; Diggers; Tractors & Trailers etc., to have them roadworthy."

Motion seconded by Comm. Moloney. The Town Clerk was instructed to convey same to the Minister for Justice.

- b. "That we request the traffic using the Cross St./Mountpleasant Road to drop off students, to continue around by the Coursing Field road so as to eliminate traffic problems."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Hynes and it was agreed to refer same to Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer for his comments.

- c. "That the Hoarding in the Main Street car park be replaced with something safer."

It was suggested that the Heritage Group are the owners of this hoarding. Mr. Tierney stated that he will be meeting the Heritage Group shortly and he will take the matter up with them.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 9th March, 1998, I will propose:

- a. "That Galway County Council be requested to provide a Public Roadway from Bride Street to the level crossing at Cosmona, Loughrea; 100 metres of which is already a public road, and a further 300 metres of roadway has to be built to the Businesses Services Estate provided by Loughrea Co-op Mart Ltd., which road in turn continues northwards and then westwards to the Mart Service Road entrance near Mount Carmel. This mart road is used extensively by the general public from Mondays to Fridays."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix and passed unanimously

- b. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners condemn without reserve the illegal and most dangerous practise of one hand driving while using mobile phones with its resultant reduction of concentration, which makes such drivers potentially as dangerous as those over the limit of alcohol consumption; and that the Garda Authorities be requested to apply the law in full."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

- c. "I will express my great joy that the Minister, Noel Dempsey, T.D. has appreciated the worthiness of the proposal to provide a new Public Library in St. Brendan's Church of Ireland, Church St., Loughrea, and has accordingly allocated the necessary funds for same; for which I will propose a vote of thanks to the Minister. Being the original proposer of this project about 20 years ago, and my continuous endeavours since - all of which has been well documented in the Connacht Tribune and in the Minutes of Loughrea Town Commissioners - I am happy that the oldest church inside the Town Moat is to be preserved. I will ask for the support of my fellow Commissioners to have our proposed new library a centre of learning and research. My personal collection which will be installed in the new library is of National Importance. Persons who will come to our library will find there close to 100% of everything written by Edward Martyn, Lady Gregory, Sir Henry Marsh, Seumus O'Kelly, Patrick O'Kelly and some others. It will be the principal source of material to researchers of those writers from all over the world."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett.

All members welcomed the allocation of money for this project. Mr. Tierney referred to the grant allocation, of representations made, of meetings that had taken place between Department officials, the County Manager and himself. The project will be phased over 3 years. The library will welcome collections. Mr. Tierney stated that the County Librarian has presented a draft 5 Year Development Programme which provides for each branch library to be a centre of learning. Comm. Hynes stated that he had had calls from Church of Ireland members who are concerned about the care and upkeep of their burial ground. Mr. Tierney assured Comm. Hynes that the terms of the Lease will be adhered to. Comm. Morgan stated that he wished to thank Mr. Michael Kitt, T.D. who he understood organised the meeting with the Minister, Mr. Tony Leahy who Chaired that meeting and Commissioners who were present at the meeting.

Water Charges: Comm. Curley referred to the number of business premises in the town that were informed that their usage of water is about to be metered and stated that this is most unfair. Mr. Tierney stated that business premises that are metered will be charged at the commercial rate for the water they use.

Planning Permission: Comm. Regan referred to a planning application for a Mast at Pollroebuck. This application is in a new housing estate and the planning notice could not be read from the public road. He proposed that the Commissioners object to this application. This was seconded by Comm. Morgan. Comm. Donnellan supported this motion and referred to the mast at the back of the Barrack - he wondered if planning permission was obtained for this.

Refuse Collection: Comm. Regan stated that the people collecting the refuse in Loughrea are having difficulty in collecting their fees. In order to overcome this, these companies are issuing labels to the houses that pay. Comm. Regan asked if the Co. Council has any plans to deal with the people who will dump indiscriminately. Mr. Tierney stated that legislation is enforce to deal with people who dump indiscriminately.

Washing of Horses: Comm. Barrett stated that he has again to complain about people washing horses in the lake which is the source of the town water supply. He said that this is the fourth occasion that he has complained about this. Mr. Tierney agreed to look into the matter.

Swimming Pool: Comm. Regan asked as to the current position with regard to the proposed swimming pool. Comms. Morgan and Hynes who are both members of the Swimming Pool Committee stated that plans are being revised and when completed will be submitted to the Department for grant aid. Mr. Tierney stated that this application will come through the County Council.

Congratulations: Comm. Moloney proposed a vote of congratulations to Vivian Lusted on her appointment as Country Directory of Apso for Cambodia.

Good Wishes: An Cathaoirleach, Comm. James Curley wishes Sarsfields and Corofin well in their quest for glory in the All-Ireland Club Finals in hurling and football on St. Patrick's Day.

Congratulations: Comm. Moloney congratulated the Loughrea/New York Committee on their annual gathering which takes place in New York each year. She had the pleasure of being present this year.

Votes of sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. Sean Sweeney, Piggotts Street on the death of his mother.
2. The Tierney Family, Mount Carmel Crescent on the death of Mick.
3. The Bane Family, Kilmeen, on the death of Jack.
4. Kathleen Quirke, Caherlavine on the death of her brother-in-law.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 20th day of April, 1998.

James Curley
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 20/4/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett, the minutes of the last meeting held on the 9/3/98 were adopted and signed as correct.

Horses at Long Point: Comm. Barrett stated that the practise of washing horses at the Long Point has not stopped.

Mr. Tierney stated that it would help if the culprit was named. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett, it was agreed that Mr. Tierney would investigate the possibility of having signs erected at the Long Point, prohibiting the washing of horses and/or dogs.

Planning Permission: Comm. Regan submitted a letter from Galway Co. Co. confirming that there is a planning application to erect an Antenna in the townland of Pollroebuck. This letter confirmed that the application is still under consideration and also set out the procedure for objecting to planning decisions.

Town Hall: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that the Loughrea Heritage Committee are meeting with their Consultants to-morrow.

Swimming Pool: Comm. Morgan informed the meeting that he is P.R.O. for the Loughrea Swimming Pool. Comm. Morgan stated that the plans are being revised and that the Chairman will contact Mr. Tierney in the near future.

Acknowledgement: Mr. J.B. (Bertie) Donohoe acknowledged and thanked the members and officials for their good wishes during his recent illness.

Complaint: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Fair & Murtagh, Solicitors, Athlone, on behalf of Tony Beegan and Heather View Stud Ltd. The letter referred to a report of the March meeting which had appeared in the Connacht Tribune dated 13/3/98 and stated that Mr. Beegan took exception to comments attributed to Comms. Morgan and Hynes regarding the possible use of the equine pool provided by Heather View Stud Ltd. An Cathaoirleach and both Comms. Morgan and Hynes confirmed that they had also received copies of this letter. Comm. Morgan stated that he apologised if his words had caused concern to Mr. Beegan, he welcomed the excellent facilities which Mr. Beegan has provided and wished him every success. Comm. Hynes stated that it was never his intention to cast any aspersion on this very welcome facility which Mr. Beegan had provided and if his comments were so construed, he regretted any inconvenience caused. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would prepare a statement for the Connacht Tribune and for Messers Fair & Murtagh.

Municipal Authorities: The meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. will take place in Wexford on September 14th-17th. Motions to be submitted before Friday, 26th June, 1998.

Western Health Board: The Western Health Board in its letter dated the 24/3/98 expressed surprise that the Commissioners had received or considered a complaint relating to the health services as it felt that complaints of this nature should be directed to the Health Board. The letter went on to say that the Board feels constrained in responding openly to individual complaints as there is a need to maintain confidentiality. Comm. Regan stated that he passed no apology to the Health Board for highlighting this case. Comm. Loughnane stated that as public representatives, he felt that the Commissioners have every right to express concern about the health services and he proposed this be pointed out to the Health Board. Comm. Regan seconded this proposal. Comm. Gunter-Nix pointed out that the Health Board staff deal very efficiently with many emergencies and she wished to compliment them on same.

Loughrea Dental Clinic: The Town Clerk stated that he was informed by the Health Board that a Dental Surgeon is appointed for the Loughrea area and it is hoped to resume full dental service in the area from 21/4/98. The members welcomed this news.

St. Brendan's Home: Mr. B. Haddigan, Programme Manager, Western Health Board in his letter of the 7/4/98 to Mr. Michael Kitt, T.D. outlined his proposals for the future of St. Brendan's Home. Mr. Haddigan in his letter stated that there is no questing of down grading existing services. It was decided to invite Mr. Haddigan to a meeting of the Board, at which meeting the press would not be present. On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane, seconded by Comm. Hynes is was also decided to invite the new C.E.O. of the Health Board, Dr. S. Ryan to a meeting of the Board.

Conferences: The meeting was advised of the forthcoming conferences:-

1. "The Councillor as Leader - reclaiming our place as leaders in the Community." Hosted by the General Council of County Councils to be held in Tullamore, July 2nd-4th.
2. 10th National Tourism Conference to be held in the West County Hotel, Ennis on 27th/28th November and hosted by Clare Co. Council.

The meeting decided not to send delegates to these conferences but on the suggestion of Comm. Gunter-Nix it was agreed that she would bring to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce the proposed conference on tourism.

Traffic Management Plan for Loughrea: Mr. John Diskin, Town Engineer, outline in detail the proposed Traffic Management Plan for Loughrea. The plan was discussed in detail and reservations were expressed about the following - making Church St. and Moore St. one way; no parking on Athenry Road, most of Dunkellin Street, most of Main Street; most of Bride Street; No extra provision for off street parking. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the plan is on display in the County Council Office at Barrack Street and also on the Bank of Ireland window until the 27/4/98. Submissions can be made up to the 12/5/98.

As it was not possible to reach a consensus on the proposed plan, it was agreed that Members should make the own submissions on the proposals. Comm. Gunter-Nix proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Diskin for his work on and presentation of, the proposed plan.

Parking: On the suggestion of Comm. Gunter-Nix it was agreed to request the County Council to investigate the possibility of acquiring a derelict house at Bride St. for development as a carpark.

Strategic Policy Committees: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that provision is now made for Town Councils to nominate a representative on the SPCs. He will advise the Town Clerk when the time is right to place the matter before a meeting of the Board.

Motion submitted by Comm. Matt Loughnane:-

"I will propose that members be circulated with a map version of the Traffic Management Plan."
Comm. Loughnane withdrew this motion as a result of the presentation of Mr. Diskin.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Regan:-

I will propose that Loughrea Town Commissioners write to the following:-

- a. To the E.S.B. re high tension wires which cross over Mount Pleasant B.G. Comm. Regan stated that these wires do not appear to be insulated. Motion seconded by Comm. Morgan
- b. "To the Minister for Social Welfare requesting that more hours be provided for the public re information services on social welfare."
Comm. Regan pointed out that this office only opens from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays.
This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan.
- c. "To the Western Health Board to find out why a dentist has not been appointed to the Health Centre in Loughrea."
Comm. Regan withdrew this motion as this position is now filled.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 20 April, 1998, I will propose:-

- a. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners hold a Civic Reception for the purpose of honouring R. (Bobby) Burke for his enormous contribution and inspiration to Irish society, and in particular to County Galway. Bobby Burke was born at Ballydoogan, Loughrea. He later lived at Tohermore House, Tuam. While there he was elected a Galway County Councillor from 1942 and a Senator from 1948. During this time he organised co-operatives; was responsible for the building of 300 houses using his own money as seed capital. He donated his home, Tohermore House with some acres of land to the health section of Galway County Council. This house is presently used as a Re-ablement and Training Centre. In 1950 he resigned from the County Council and the Senate and went with his wife and only child, Patricia, as missionaries to Africa. Bobby Burke who is 92 years old and resides in Belfast is unable to travel. His daughter Mrs. Patricia Ericsson, who lives in Sweden is

coming to Loughrea to attend her cousin's wedding and will be available on Wednesday evening, 20th May, 1998. I feel that Bobby Burke, a most noble native of Loughrea, should be honoured by Loughrea, in his own lifetime by the presentation of a Scroll, by our Chairman, to be accepted by his daughter, Patricia, on her father's behalf."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

An Cathaoirleach and Comm. Morgan were authorised to finalise arrangements.

b. "That if any funds can be secured that some seats be provided, especially for the elderly and infirm, in the Commissioners' new park at Gort Road."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney.

Mr. Diskin stated that he would hope to carry out this work under Urban Renewal.

Deputation: The meeting received a deputation from the Derrybrien & District Concerned Residents Group who were represented by Martin Collins and Margaret Slattery. Mr. Collins stated that there are 3 Wind Farms planned for the Derrybrien area. Mr. Collins stated that if these go ahead they will devastate the Derrybrien area which is a high amenity area. He sought the support of the Commissioners in opposing this planning application.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Moloney it was unanimously agreed to oppose this planning application.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of May, 1998.

James Curley
Cathaoirleach

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/5/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan and Pat Hynes,

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Comm. Matt Loughnane.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 20/4/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan.

Town Hall: Arising from the minutes, Comm. Hynes asked if there is any further news regarding the future of Loughrea Town Hall. Mr. Tierney in reply stated that he had met the Heritage Group and had looked at their first option. The Consultant is now preparing a second option. Mr. Tierney stressed that the overall cost will be the deciding factor and added that EU funding is committed up to 1999. Mr. Tierney also stated that the Directors will also have to approve of the final plans.

Bobby Burke Reception: Comm. Morgan informed the meeting that the Bobby Burke reception could not go ahead on the 20/5/98 as Mr. Burke's daughter was unable to secure a flight. A new date will be arranged. Mr. Tierney asked Comm. Morgan to keep him informed as Tuam propose to name a street after Mr. Burke and it might be possible to have both events coincide.

Car Park at Bride Street: Mr. Tierney informed Comm. Gunter-Nix that the site mentioned as a possible carpark for Bride Street is not suitable.

Corrys Field: An application on behalf of Jardonelle Ltd. for permission to lay a surface water pipe through Corrys Field was approved on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

"The Walks": Loughrea Amenity Development Group submitted a list of proposals for the area known as "The Walks". On the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Comm. Curley it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting and that each member get a copy of the proposals. Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that the provision of litter bins might be looked at immediately. Mr. Diskin agreed to look at this but pointed out that quite an amount of vandalism has taken place at The Walks recently.

Bypass Road: Galway Co. Council in its letter of the 28/4/98 stated that there are two proposed access locations from the bypass road to the town of Loughrea, at the Eastern and Western extremities of the bypass, separated by a distance of less than 4 kms. Adequate signage will be provided in advance of these locations to facilitate access to the town. The letter also went on to point out that the proposed bridge on the Bullaun road utilises this road in the optimum manner. To move this bridge as suggested would involve increased land acquisition and would require the

construction of additional lengths of new roadway.

In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that the position with regard to the proposed bypass is still the same, the N.R.A. has yet to decide between a dual or single carriageway, but he still expects work to commence before the end of 1999.

Social Welfare Office: The Department of Social Welfare acknowledged receipt of suggestion for longer opening hours for Social Welfare Office in Loughrea. Comm. Hynes suggested that a Citizens Advice Centre should be provided in Loughrea. Comm. Gunter-Nix pointed out that the Community Information Centre closed due to lack of use.

Traffic Management Plan: The meeting received a deputation consisting of Joe Grace, Joe Coyne, Fergal Leahy and Margaret Dolan representing the Athenry Road and Dunkellin Street Residents. An Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of the Deputation and invited Joe Grace to address the meeting. Mr. Grace stated that they had held 2 meetings at which there were over 80 people plus Public Representatives present. The meetings were unanimous in their opposition to the proposed Traffic Management Plan for Loughrea. The Plan if put into operation would result in loss of business and jobs for the people in the western end of the town. Mr. Grace thanked the meeting for receiving them and he asked that consideration be shown with regard to the proposed plan.

After the Deputation had left, Mr. Diskin in reply to Comm. Barrett stated that there would be approximately 14 spaces on the north side of Dunkellin Street. Mr. Diskin pointed out that there would be major concern if an emergency arose and some service was delayed due to traffic problems. When the bypass materialises, the parking could be reviewed.

Comm. Gunter-Nix agreed that perhaps Comms. Morgan's suggestion of a Traffic Warden might be the answer. Mr. Tierney stated that property could be looked at for car parks but property even if available would be very expensive and he would doubt if any additional money would be made available. Comm. Regan asked if the members had made any recommendations as suggested at the last meeting.

Mr. Tierney stated that submissions will be considered and probably referred back to an Area Meeting of the County Council.

Revision of Remuneration: In accordance with Circular Letter EL 6/98, Phase 1(ii) of the 29th Pay Round was approved for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan.

Representative on Strategic Policy Committee: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley, Comm. Gunter-Nix was appointed to represent the Board on the Strategic Policy Committees.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday, 11th May, 1998, I will propose:

- a. "That Galway County Council not take over the main thoroughfare of Loughrea Town, from Mount Carmel Crescent Junction to Bertie Donohoe's house, Bride Street, thereby practically converting it into a Freeway, until the County Council first provide adequate off-street car parks; and because their suggestion will definitely result in the destruction

of most of Loughrea's businesses and simply encourage people to fly freely through Loughrea to shops in Galway."

Due to the fact that the main thoroughfare through Loughrea is in the charge of Galway County Council, An Cathaoirleach ruled this motion out of order and suggested that Comm. Morgan could submit an amended motion for the June meeting.

- b. "That the Commissioners ask the Assistant Co. Manager what action Galway Co. Council has taken to provide a Public Car Park at Concannon's, Dunkellin St., Loughrea and a relief road from Bride Street to the old Railway Crossing at Cosmona, as recommended by Loughrea Town Commissioners."

Mr. Tierney reiterated that he had had discussions with the new owner, Mr. O'Toole to no avail. With regard to the second part of the motion he will endeavour to discuss this matter with the owners of the existing road.

- c. "The Garda Authorities be asked to make a special effort to put an end to speeding and dangerous driving by drivers of buses and heavy vehicles on our roads."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Dog Nuisance at Corrys Field: An Cathaoirleach read from a letter he had received complimenting the Commissioners on their development of Corrys Field. The writer who wished to remain anonymous, complained about dogs running loose and the area being soiled by dogs excrement. Mr. Tierney suggested that the erection of signs is not the answer to this problem. Comm. Morgan appealed to the general public to respect this area and was supported by Comm. ~~Morgan~~ BARRETT.

Preservation Order: Comm. Donnellan asked if a Preservation Order could be put on the Water Tower and the Engine Shed on the site of the old Railway Station. These might be preserved as a monument to the many people who left Loughrea station, some never to return.

Mr. Tierney stated that it is hoped to bring the Loughrea Town Plan forward and perhaps have it ready by the end of the year.

Childrens' Burial Ground: Comm. Donnellan referred to the Childrens Burial Ground in St. Laurencesfields - (Kilnabasty). He stated that he remembered when this burial ground was enclosed with a wall. He wondered if this wall could be restored and then perhaps the land could be consecrated.

Community Welfare Officer: Comm. Hynes stated that he understood that Martin Tierney had recently retired as Community Welfare Officer. He paid tribute to Mr. Tierney on the courteous manner on which he had carried out his work and wished him well on his retirement. All members associated themselves with the good wishes to Mr. Tierney. An Cathaoirleach pointed out that May 27th is the date on which Mr. Tierney will retire.

Thanks: Comm. Barrett thanked the Town Engineer for having Garrybreeda Road, Abbey Street and Cosmona resurfaced.

Congratulations: Comm. Donnellan congratulated the Seumas O'Kelly Players on their excellent production of Brendan Beehan's play "The Hostage"

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the following:-

1. Bridget Farrell, Moore Street, Loughrea.
2. Anne Flanagan, Abbey Terrace, Loughrea.
3. Maureen Cunniffe, Lake Road, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 8th day of June, 1998.

James Curley
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/6/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Tom Kavanagh, Acting County Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Comm. Teresa Moloney.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 11/5/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Town Plan: Arising from the minutes Comm. Loughnane stated that as it is intended that the proposed Town Plan for Loughrea will come under consideration this year, thought should be given so that adequate zoning will be provided for all services to Loughrea's benefit. This was supported by the other members. Mr. Kavanagh stated that the members will have an opportunity to discuss the draft plan but that it would be beneficial to have opinions prior to the plan being prepared.

Comm. Morgan informed the meeting that for family reasons he has to leave the meeting early and he requested that his motions be dealt with first. The meeting unanimously agreed to this.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday, 8 June, 1998, I will propose:

a. "That a recommendation be made to the Minister for Health that the lands at Merlin Park, Galway, which are owned by the Western Health Board, not be sold at any time, but be kept as state property for the benefit of the community."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan and passed unanimously.

b. "I will propose that Galway County Council not implement the proposed changes in the parking laws covering from Mount Carmel Crescent Junction to Bertie Donohoe's house, Bride Street, until adequate off-street car-parks are provided."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

c. "That Galway County Council be requested to give a full report to Loughrea Town Commissioners, regarding the overflow pipe which can carry raw, human, bodily waste matter from the pumphouse on the Gort Road, Loughrea through Town Commissioners property at the Tennis Club car park and deposit said untreated sewage directly into the lake, which is the source of the domestic water supply for the town of Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that this overflow pipe is plugged and that it is impossible for raw sewage to get into the lake. Mr. Diskin stated that he had pointed this out to members of the Residents Group on site and they appeared to be happy. Mr. Diskin also stated that he is seeking to have the capacity of this pump increased next year and he will be including this in the estimates. Comm. Loughnane proposed that Galway Co. Council be asked to provide this money next year.

"Blue Flag" Comm. Loughnane referred to the bathing area at the Long Point retaining its "Blue Flag" status and he wished to congratulate the County Council staff on same. He stressed the need for the support of the public in keeping this area up to the required standard.

Loughrea By-Pass: The N.R.A. in a letter to Deputy Ulick Burke, stated that it is carrying out a National Roads Needs Study to examine the projected traffic flows over the next 20 years. The study will be completed shortly and this will decide if the Loughrea By-Pass will be single or dual. The N.R.A. has allocated £0.25 million to Galway Co. Council this year to enable design and land acquisition for the scheme to progress. This letter received a mixed reception from the meeting. Comm. Loughnane suggested that the Loughrea By-Pass should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

St. Brendan's Home: Mr. B. Haddigan, Regional Manager, Mental Health & Services for Older People informed the meeting that he is prepared to meet the members outside the setting of a formal meeting to discuss future plans for St. Brendan's Home. The meeting agreed to this and the Town Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

Local Elections 1999: A letter from the Department of the Environment stating that Local Elections and European Parliament Elections will be held on Friday, 11th June, 1999 was read to the meeting.

Conferences: The meeting was informed of the following conferences -

1. "Remuneration for local elected representatives? - An international comparison." Hosted by L.A.M.A. in Kenmare on Sept. 4 & 5, 1998.
2. "The E.U./Local Government/Rural Regeneration". Hosted by Laois County Council in Portlaoise on Sept. 24 & 25, 1998.
3. "Heritage at the Crossroads". Hosted by Waterford Institute of Technology on June 25 & 26, 1998.

The meeting agreed not to send delegates to the above conferences.

Date of Annual Meeting: on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan it was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting on the 29/6/98.

The Walks - Loughrea Amenity Development Group: The meeting considered proposals submitted by Loughrea Amenity Development Group of work to be carried out on "The Walks" area. Before discussing the proposals Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she was contacted by a member of Loughrea Amenity Development Group regarding the report which had appeared in the Connacht Tribune. This person had pointed

out that the Group had not used the term "litter lout" or was the locking of the gate off the Main Street car park unanimous decision. The proposals were welcomed by the meeting but Mr. Diskin pointed out that quite an amount of resources would be required to carry out this work. Comm. Gunter-Nix suggested that the County Council might consider having the work carried out over a 5 year period while Comm. Barrett suggested a Fas Scheme.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane, Mr. Diskin agreed to lock the car park gate for a trial period of one month.

Fly Posting: Comm. Donnellan condemned the amount of fly posting that is taking place in town recently. He referred to circuses and local businesses. In reply to Comm. Gunter-Nix, Mr. Howlett stated that culprits should be reported to the County Council. Comm. Morgan excused himself from the meeting.

Motion submitted by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix:

"At the June meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that our Millennium Commemoration Project takes the form of a Youth Centre for Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that this is just the bones of the proposal, with the approval of the members, she would hope to throw it out to a wider audience and report back to the Commissioners at a later date. The proposal had the unanimous support of the meeting.

Vandalism: Comm. Regan stated that the incidents of vandalism in the town has increased recently. It was agreed on Comm. Regan's suggestion to seek a meeting with the local Garda Superintendent to discuss the problem.

Dail Representatives: On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Barrett it was decided to invite the four local Dail Representatives to the September meeting of the Board.

Congratulations: Votes of congratulations were passed to the following:-

1. Mr. & Mrs. Leo McGuinness, Main Street, on winning the National News Agent of the Year award.
2. Druid Theatre Company on winning 4 "Tony Awards" in America, for the play "The Beauty Queen of Leenane". The recipients were Garry Hynes, Anna Manahan, Marie Mullen and Tom Murphy.
3. The ladies from the locality who competed in last Sunday's Dublin City Marathon.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The family of the late Frankie Glynn, Kilchreest.
2. The Finnerty family Racecourse on the death of Nancy.
3. Dr. Mary O'Connor and her brother Michael, on the death of their Fr. Paddy Carroll.
4. Fr. Quinn, O.D.C. The Abbey Foreheen on the death of his brother

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 13 day of July, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 29/6/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Matt Loughnane, James Regan and Oliver Barrett.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Welcome: The meeting welcomed back Mr. J.B. Donohoe, Press Representative, after his recent illness.

Best Wishes: Best wishes were extended to Comm. Brendan Donnellan who is in hospital at the moment and he was wished a speedy recovery to health.

Comm. Curley, outgoing Cathaoirleach thanked his fellow Commissioners for their co-operation during the year, he also expressed his thanks to officials, John Tierney, John Diskin and Alexis Marmion for their help during his term of office and to the local media.

Members and officials thanked and complimented Comm. Curley for the fair and impartial way in which he had carried out the duties of An Cathaoirleach during his term of office.

Election of An Cathaoirleach:

Comm. Gunter-Nix was proposed by Comm. Regan and seconded by Comm. Loughnane. As there were no other proposals Comm. Gunter-Nix was declared elected. Comm. Gunter-Nix thanked her proposer and seconder. She stated that Loughrea is very dear to her and she looked forward to the coming year. She stated that her priorities for the coming year will be the young people and the elderly and she hoped that all will work in harmony to improve their lot.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach: The following were proposed for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach:-

Comm. Pat Hynes, proposed by Comm. Morgan and seconded by Comm. Moloney.

Comm. Oliver Barrett, proposed by Comm. Curley seconded by Comm. Regan.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For Comm. Hynes: Comms. Hynes, Morgan and Moloney. 3 No.

For Comm. Barrett: Comms. Barrett, Curley, Regan, Loughnane, Gunter Nix. 5
Comm. Barrett was declared elected.

Both Comm. Barrett and Comm. Hynes thanked their proposers and seconders.

Comm. Morgan and Comm. Hynes both took exception to the manner in which the larger parties had united to monopolise the positions which they claimed was unfair and undemocratic and requested that their protest be noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 13th day of July, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of informal meeting with officials of the Western Health Board concerning future of St. Brendan's Hospital, Loughrea, which took place in O'Dea's Hotel, Loughrea, on the 29/6/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley.

Members: Comms. Mary Gunter-Nix, Teresa Moloney, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Western Health Board: Sr. Mary Casey, Matron, St. Brendan's Hospital, Adrian Ahern, Hospital Administrator, Bernard Haddigan, Regional Manager.

An Cathaoirleach in welcoming the officials of the Western Health Board, explained that people are concerned about the future or long term plans for St. Brendan's and he invited the officials to outline the Western Health Board's plans for St. Brendan's.

Mr. Haddigan explained that Loughrea is one of the 6 remaining workhouses in the country, two of which are being replaced. At present there are 229 beds in St. Brendan's. It is proposed to open units at Ballinasloe and Carrowroe in addition to Loughrea. Loughrea will then cater for the middle of the county and will have 60/80 beds. This together with the upgrading of the existing day centre to a day hospital, with a wider scope of services, should cater for the needs of the Loughrea area.

Mr. Haddigan stressed that between Loughrea and the new unit in Ballinasloe, there would be no significant change in staffing levels.

These assurances were welcomed by the Commissioners.

Comm. Gunter-Nix complimented the Matron and staff, both past and present, of St. Brendan's for the excellent service which they have provided over the years. The other members associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by Comm. Gunter-Nix.

An Cathaoirleach thanked the Western Health Board representatives for meeting the Commissioners and the discussion then terminated.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/7/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Oliver Barrett, Norman Morgan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apologies: Comms. Jimmy Curley and Brendan Donnellan.

Minutes: Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 8/6/98 and Annual Meeting held on the 29/6/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Minutes Silence: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Moloney, one minute silence was observed in memory of the three young Quinn brothers who were recently murdered in Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

Town Plan: In reply to queries raised by Comm. Morgan, Mr. Tierney stated that when the Draft Plan for Loughrea is prepared, people will get an opportunity to comment and/or make submissions on the proposed plan.

Town Hall: Comm. Hynes referred to recent announcements of Heritage grants being made available for improvements to the Town Hall in Tuam and he felt similar grants should be sought to improve the Town Hall in Loughrea. Mr. Tierney in reply stated that the money referred to for Tuam dated back to 1995 and he also pointed out that the Town Hall in Tuam is in the ownership of Tuam T.C. while the Loughrea hall is in private ownership. Mr. Tierney stated that talks are on going between the Town Hall directors, Loughrea Heritage Group and the Co. Council and that all parties are most co-operative.

Car Park at Main Street: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Diskin stated that the gate from the car park at Main Street leading to The Walk is being locked at night. There is no feed back from same.

September Meeting: Mr. Paul Connaughton, T.D. confirmed that he will be available to attend the September meeting.

Lands At Merlin Park: The Department of Health & Children acknowledge receipt of Board's request that the Western Health Board not sell its lands at Merlin Park.

Sponsorship: Mr. David Daniels of Athenry Road, Loughrea informed the Board that he is selected to represent Ireland in the first ever World Youth Fly Fishing Championship in Wales on August 9th-14th and he wrote inviting sponsorship from the Board. The meeting declined the invitation as it was felt that this might create a dangerous precedent. Mr. Daniels was congratulation on his selection and wished well in the forthcoming championships.

Members Expenses: Members expenses as set out in Circular Letter LGP 6/98 of 3/7/98 were approved. Proposed by Comm. Morgan, seconded Comm. Barrett.

Revision of Remuneration -29th Pay Round Phase 2: The 29th Pay Round as set out in Circular Letter 9/98, in so far as it relates to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners was adopted on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Regan.

Auditor's Report 1997 Year: The Auditor's Report for 1997 Year was presented to the meeting. The Report which was satisfactory, was noted.

Gratuity to Members: Mr. Tierney informed the members that a scheme whereby members not seeking re-election at the next local elections will be entitled to a once-off gratuity, was introduced by the Minister. The scheme provides for current members to apply for the gratuity between 1st July 1998 and 15th September, 1998. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the scheme. It was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Morgan, seconded by Comm. Loughnane, that a recommendation be sent to the Minister suggesting that local authority members be paid a gratuity when they cease to be members of a local authority and that these payments be treated in the same manner as payments to Dail Representatives.

Former Members: Comm. Loughnane suggested that a reunion of former members be considered. An Cathaoirleach suggested an anniversary mass. The matter was deferred.

Motion submitted by Comm. Loughnane:-

"I will propose that the Assistant County Manager indicate a timescale for completing the new Sewerage Works at Ballygasty, Loughrea." Mr. Tierney stated that the planning procedure has started. It is hoped to have the Contract Documents approved by the end of the week, to have them approved to go to tender and to commence work in 1999.

Corry's Field: Comm. Morgan suggested that the grass in Corry's Field be given to the first farmer that looks for it. Mr. Diskin stated that the suggestion of a national meadow for Corry's Field would mean that it would not be cut until mid August. The matter was left in Mr. Diskin's hands.

Tribute to Joe Lambert R.I.P.: Comm. Hynes paid tribute to the late Joe Lambert who had served on the Co. Council for many years. Comms. Barrett and Loughnane joined in the tribute

Water Supply: Mr. Diskin in reply to Comm. Regan stated that booster pump recently installed at Athenry Road should solve the water problem in the Athenry Road area. It is hoped to run a pipe from Athenry Road to St. Laurencesfields and this would help the St. Laurencesfields area.

Euro Currency: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Moloney it was decided to request the Minister for Finance to provide educational programmes on Euro Currency for the benefit of the public.

Garrybreeda Burial Ground: Comm. Morgan asked that the tree near the crucifix in Garrybreeda B.G. be trimmed and that the image be painted.

Walks Gates: Comm. Morgan stated that a van had travelled through The Walk last Friday and he proposed that the key to these gates not be given out in future. Town Clerk stated that no one had got permission to use The Walk on last Friday.

Traffic Management Plan: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that the Traffic Management Plan for Loughrea is being reviewed and will probably be considered at the next Area Meeting of Galway Co. Co.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney in reply to Comm. Regan stated that a new submission is being prepared.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of September, 1998.



Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/9/98.

In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Leas Cathaoirleach.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Matt Loughnane, Jimmy Curley.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Apology: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 13/7/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Curley.

Minutes Silence: Before the business was discussed Comm. Barrett proposed that a minutes silence be observed as a mark of respect to the following:

1. Mrs. Gunter, Cosmona, mother of the Chairperson, Mary Gunter-Nix.
2. Fr. Joe Marmion, Barrack Street, brother of the Town Clerk.
3. The victims of the Omagh bombing tragedy.
4. The three people who were killed in the car accident at Kilcolgan.
5. The five people killed in the car accident in Co. Wicklow.
6. Septa Culleton and Irene McMahon - aunts of the McInerney family, Cosmona.
7. Mrs. Coughlan, Lissalumma, Kilrickle.

Comm. Donnellan suggested that in future, the Chairperson should lead with prayers. This was agreed.

Former Members: It was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Loughnane, seconded by Comm. Morgan that former members be invited to attend the Christmas function at their own expense.


Loughrea Sewerage: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that the planning application for improvements to the Loughrea Sewerage Plant was cleared last Friday, the final contract documents are with the Department and he hoped that work will commence early in 1999. With regard to the suggestion that planning applications are held up due to inadequate sewerage facilities, Mr. Diskin stated that planning is considered on merit, no directive had been issued and land zoning is the biggest problem at present.

Loughrea Library: Comm. Loughnane stated that the proposed new library was also cleared for planning. Mr. Tierney stated that as funding is already agreed this should commence in the near future.

Traffic Management Plan: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that the Traffic Management Plan for Loughrea is being reviewed and will probably be considered at the next Area Meeting of Galway Co. Co.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney in reply to Comm. Regan stated that a new submission is being prepared.

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In the Chair: Comm. Oliver Barrett, Leas Cathaoirleach.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Matt Loughnane, Jimmy Curley.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk, John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Apology: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Meeting opened with prayers.

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Loughrea Library: Comm. Loughnane stated that the proposed new library was also cleared for planning. Mr. Tierney stated that as funding is already agreed this should commence in the near future.

Draft Plan: Mr. Tierney reiterated that the Draft Plan will be put on display for 3 months, during which time submissions can be made to the County Secretary.

Gate at Car Park: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Diskin stated that he will enquire from the gardai to see if the provision of a gate at the car park has had any impact on vandalism in the area.

Traffic Management Plan: In reply to Comm. Curley, Mr. Tierney stated that the plan was considered at the Loughrea Area meeting, some changes were suggested and it is hoped to have it before the Council on the 28/9/98. Mr. Tierney also pointed out that a Traffic/Litter Warden is being sought. In response to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney agreed that a "Information Evening" could be held.

Dail Representatives: The Chairman welcomed the four local Dail Deputies to the meeting - Mr. Noel Treacy T.D., Minister for Science, Technology & Commerce, Mr. Michael Kitt, T.D., Mr. Paul Connaughton, T.D., and Mr. Ulick Burke, T.D. A discussion took place on the following:-

Jobs: The representatives informed the meeting that discussion is ongoing with the I.D.A. and that Loughrea is included in these discussions.

Bypass Road: The meeting was informed that the National Traffic Study had indicated that Loughrea requires a reduced dual carriageway. This study also indicated that Loughrea gets top priority in the backlog. The Council can now proceed with a design. Mr. Tierney stated that it is hoped to be ready for funding in 1999. Comm. Morgan asked that the bridge at Cosmona be relocated so as not to create an eyesore in the area.

School Transport: Comm. Hynes asked Minister Treacy to clear up the fouled up bureaucracy over school transport. Minister Treacy stated that they are quite happy with the transport in the Loughrea school catchment area.

Mast at Pollroebeck: Comm. Moloney referred to the erection of a mast at Pollroebeck by Cable Link and she enquired if anything could be done about it. Mr. Tierney in reply stated that the file is open to public inspection and people can if they so wish appeal to An Bord Planalla.

Housing: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that 8 houses are being provided by the Co. Council and Respond is providing 20 houses in Loughrea in the current year while there are 10 local authority houses planned for next year.

Parking: Comm. Morgan stated that Concannon's premises at Dunkellin St. is again coming on the market and he asked Minister Treacy if funding could be made available to acquire these premises for off street parking. Minister Treacy stated that if co-funding was provided similar to the funding that was provided for the Main Street car-park, he would press for government funding also.

Decentralisation: Minister Treacy assured the meeting that the Government is committed to decentralisation but one of the conditions is that a local authority must provide a site.

Planning Application: Comm. Morgan referred to a planning application at Grange for a camping site. He pointed out how close this site is to the lake which is the source for Loughrea water supply and he stressed the need to maintain the quality of this supply.

Comm. Barrett thanked the four Public Representatives for attending and stressed the importance of promoting the Bypass, Loughrea Water & Sewerage Schemes, jobs, carparks, and decentralisation. The 4 Public Representatives together with Comm. Loughnane left the meeting

Retirement Gratuity: The Department of the Environment in its letter of the 4/8/98 acknowledged receipt of resolution passed by Loughrea Town Commissioners on proposals of determining basis for awarding gratuities to members who indicate prior to the 15/9/98 that they will not seek re-election

Euro Changeover: The Department of Finance set out in its letter of the 29/7/98, the steps it had taken to educate the public on the change to the Euro.

Conferences: The meeting was informed of the forthcoming conferences:-

1. Laois County Council - E.U. Local Government & Rural Regeneration.
2. Clare Co. Council - "Developing Tourism Through Partnership and Community Enterprise."
3. Greystones Town Commissioners - "Local Authorities - A Re-Assessment - 100 Years On"

It was decided not to send delegates to the above.

All-Ireland Football Final: Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had applied for tickets. It was agreed that any tickets received should be used by the members themselves.

Estimates Meeting: Mr. Tierney advised the meeting that it is proposed to hold the Estimates Meeting in conjunction with the October meeting

Motions submitted by Comm. Oliver Barrett:

- a) "Caheronaun/Danesfort Road. That no planning permission be considered until this road is widened and made safe." After discussion Comm. Barrett agreed to delete the reference to planning permission and to request the Council to widen this road at Caheronaun.
- b) "Lake Road at St. Brendan's Hospital be widened and speed cameras be put in place - reason to prevent accidents." This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously.
- c) "West Bridge. That some sort of lights or zebra crossing be put there so that people can cross the road in safety." Motion seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. James Curley:-

a. "At the next meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I propose to ask Mr. Joseph Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer with the Western Health Board why Loughrea has not got its 24 hour Ambulance Service which he informed the Town Commission Board it would have in January 1996."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously. The Town Clerk was instructed to send a copy to Dr.S. Ryan, C.E.O. Western Health Board.

b. "At the next meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that Galway Co. Council provide two 1m X 1m speed signs of 40 m.p.h. with yellow luminous surroundings, one on the Athenry Road coming from Galway, the other on the Dublin Road coming from Ballinasloe."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed unanimously. Mr. Diskin state that the N.R.A. is in the process of providing a uniform signage programme for the N6.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners, to be held on Monday 14th September, 1998, I will propose:

a) "That a scheme for the grass cutting of Corry's Field be agreed."

Mr. Diskin explain that the Lisa McKnight Report has suggested maintaining this area as "Meadow Land". It was agreed to have another look at the McKnight Report.

b) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners thank Bus Eireann for having provided Loughrea with 13 services to and from Dublin each day." Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

c) "I will ask why Loughrea Town Commissioners stand idly by while pedestrians of Loughrea are being deprived of their rights."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously. The Town Clerk was instructed to bring this to the attention of the gardai.

People of the Year Awards: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan it was decided to nominate Sonia O'Sullivan for a "People of the Year Award."

White Lining: Comm. Donnellan asked that the white line at the Westbridge be replaced. Comm. Moloney asked that the "Yellow Box" near the weighbridge at Barrack Street be extended to cover the side road to Main Street.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Donnellan seconded by Comm. Barrett, Michael Bond was congratulated on being manager of the successful All-Ireland hurling champions - Offaly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 17th day of October, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/10/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes, James Curley, Norman Morgan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

In accordance with Sections 9 & 10 of the County & City Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, the Estimate of Expenses for 1999 Year were presented by Mr. Tierney.

The Estimates as presented by Mr. Tierney proposed a rate of 211.82 pence in the pound as compared to 184.68 for 1998, an increase of 27.14 pence.

Mr. Tierney explained that expenditure had increased due mainly to an increase in the Members Allowances, while income had decreased due to a fall off in annuity receipts and a reduction in interest rates. Mr. Tierney explained that if the Urban Renewal Grants remain the same as last year a further £6,000.00 will be required from the Capital Account.

The members complimented and thanked the officials on the efficient manner in which the affairs of the Commissioners are being handled.

On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett the following were unanimously resolved:

1. That the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/99 as set forth at A, B & C on the Form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.
2. That the Demand be made on Galway Co. Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of £33,995.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31/12/99 and that the Form of Demand be signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

The Form of Estimate and the Form of Demand were both signed by the Chairman and by the Town Clerk.

3. It was also agreed that a further £6,000.00 will be made available from the Capital Account if it is required for the Urban Renewal Grant.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of November, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/10/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes, James Curley, Norman Morgan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, An Cathaoirleach thanked the members and officials for their expression of sympathy on the death of her mother - a gesture that was appreciated by all the family.

Minutes: The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on the 14/9/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett, seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix, Galway were congratulated on winning the Senior All Ireland Football Championship. The Town Clerk was thanked for securing 4 tickets for this game.

Ambulance Service: In reply to Comm. Curley, the Town Clerk stated that he had not yet received a reply from the Western Health Board regarding the 24 hour Ambulance Service for Loughrea.

Loughrea Town Plan: After some discussion it was decided on the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Comm. Morgan to hold a special meeting on Monday next, October 19th to discuss the proposed Loughrea Town Plan.

Corry's Field: Mr. Tierney explained to the meeting that the Urban Renewal Grant next year may have to change from Corry's Field as a result of the constraint on tree planting in the area. Mr. Diskin stated that a car park, seats and a picnic area are being provided and he now sought direction as to how the Commissioners see the area develop. Comm. Donnellan referred to the previous plan for planting and regretted that this plan was not accepted. He now proposed that this park be named after the late Colonel Dan Corry who captained the Irish Army Jumping team and whose people owned this land. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett. Comm. Curley suggested toilets for the area. After further discussion it was agreed on the suggestion of Mr. Tierney that the members should submit written suggestions to the Town Engineer or to the Town Clerk.

Motions submitted by Comm. Pat Hynes:-

a. "That the Western Development Commission make available at the earliest possible date their plans for the development of South Galway including Loughrea and that the Commission would give details as to how and when they propose to implement these plans"

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

b. "That the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs change the qualifying conditions of the Carers Allowance Scheme."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley and passed unanimously.

Comm. Hynes stated that the means test should be abolished, the carer's allowance increased to #100.00 and the residential clause removed.

c. "That the Department of Education and Science seek additional funds from the Department of Finance for the purpose of providing a more efficient School Transport Service."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

a. "That Galway Co. Council be requested to have the footpath which has been broken at the entrance to The Crescent, Bride St., Loughrea, sloped to allow easy on/off for pushcars, wheelchairs, etc."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Mr. Diskin stated that he is pursuing this matter with the contractor.

b. "That Galway Co. Council be requested to provide, as originally planned, a car park leading to the Railway Station, which could be used as a pick-up and drop off point for those who at present abandon their cars on our streets all day."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Tierney stated that discussions had taken place with the Mart people and they wish to retain the status quo.

c. "That Galway Co. Council be requested to provide, as per agreement of, and contributions of Loughrea Town Commissioners (#50,000), Loughrea Chamber of Commerce (#50,000), The Minister for Local Government (#150,000), Galway Co. Council (#50,000), a third Car Park, which was to have been provided at the west end of Loughrea Town (The Green), be now provided at the property known as Concannon's, Dunkellin St."

Mr. Tierney stated that while the property may be available, the money left is only a drop in the ocean. Comm. Morgan queried where the money went to and doubted that the Co. Council provided their #50,000.00. Comm. Loughnane stated that a carpark is needed, we had to face facts. Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Town Engineer is investigating this area.

Traffic Calming: Comm. Barrett proposed that "Traffic Calming" be introduced on the Atherry Road and at the Hill, This was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Footpaths: Comm. Barrett proposed that the footpath on the south side of Atherry Road be tarmacadamed. Town Engineer agreed to look into this.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that he had recently met the local Swimming Pool Committee, they have now hired Holohan Leisure Group to complete their feasibility study, it is hoped that this study will be with the Co. Council within a month and with the Dept. by Xmas.

Town Hall: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Directors of the Town Hall are favourably disposed towards handing over the Town Hall and are seeking legal advice re same. Funding will be provided by Galway Co. Co., Loughrea Heritage Group and Loughrea Town Commissioners, while grant aid will also be sought. The meeting welcomed this news.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of November. *Mary Gunter-Nix* Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at Special Meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 19/10/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Thomas Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayer.

L.A. Members (Gratuity) Scheme 1998:

Informal of the L.A. Members (Gratuity) Scheme 1998 which details have been published in the town plan.

Comms. Matt Loughnane, Teresa Moloney, Norman Morgan, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

PROPOSED TOWN PLAN:

It was noted that the proposed Town Plan which is about to be drawn up by the Planning Committee, will be drawn up by the Planning Committee. After much discussion it was decided to forward the following suggestions to the Planning Committee.

1. That no building be allowed within 10 metres of the town boundary and that all new buildings be of suitable quality. Proposed by Comm. Morgan and seconded by Comm. Barrett.
2. That a Preservation Order be placed on all buildings of artistic, archaeological or historic interest. Proposed by Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.
3. That all mature trees, within the town boundary, be preserved, where it is safe to do so. Proposed by Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane.
4. That existing amenities be enlarged and enhanced. Proposed by Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix.
5. That any property between the road and Loughrea lake, that becomes available be acquired.
6. That adequate additional land be re-zoned for industry.

HOUSING:

1. That a play area of 3 acres be provided for every 250 houses. Proposed by Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Regan.

That apartment houses in green fields with no parking spaces be prohibited. Proposed by Comm. Regan.

That the maximum height of buildings be restricted to 12 metres. Proposed by Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Regan.

That the maximum number of parking spaces be restricted to a maximum of 20. Proposed by Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Loughnane.

That a minimum of 2 parking spaces be provided for each new house built. Proposed by Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Regan. That a minimum of 2 parking spaces be provided adjacent to the premises. Proposed by Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane.

PARKING:

1. That car parks be provided for people who commute to work. That these car parks be provided in the area of the town that may become available when land is acquired for the proposed industrial estate. Proposed by Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Morgan.
2. That a car park be provided in the Bricc Street area of the town. Proposed by Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Loughnane.
3. That a car park be provided at the Gort Road, south of the public toilets. Proposed by Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Moloney.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 19th day of November, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/11/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes, James Curley and Norman Morgan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk

Apology: Comm. Teresa Moloney.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Vote of Sympathy: Before discussing the business of the meeting, An Cathaoirleach proposed that arising from the tragic death of Mrs. Rita Wall, sister of Town Engineer, John Diskin, that a minute silence be observed and that the sympathy of the Board be extended to the bereaved family.

Minutes: On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett the following minutes were adopted and signed as correct:

1. Minutes of Estimates Meeting held on the 12/10/98.
2. Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on the 12/10/98.
3. Minutes of Special meeting held in the 19/10/98.

Footpaths: In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Diskin stated that money may be provided to replace and extend the footpath at Athenry Road next year.

Hospital Cut Backs: Comm. Hynes referred to the closure of two wards at U.C.Hospital, Galway with the resultant loss of jobs for staff and serious implications for patients. On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Curley it was decided to call on Minister Cowen to provide the necessary funding to keep the wards open.

Car Parks: Comm. Morgan stated that he was disappointed that despite the fact he had submitted resolutions regarding the provision of a car park at Dunkellin Street, Comm. Loughnane's comments regarding parking had received greater coverage on Galway Bay F.M. Comm. Morgan felt that a car park should be provided in this area and stressed that the cost should not be the only issue. Comm. Loughnane stated that charges are being levied on planning applications for parking facilities which are not being provided. Mr. Tierney stated that he had outlined the position the last night, he acknowledged the need for a third car park but stressed that there is a major shortfall in the money that is available and what is sought for the site.

Ambulance Service: Mr. J. Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer with the Western Health Board stated in his letter dated 19/10/98 that to provide a 24-hour ambulance service in the Loughrea area would cost an additional #40,000 and that this amount could not be met by the existing budget.

The meeting was disappointed with this reply and it was decided on the proposition of Comm. Curley seconded by Comm. Barrett it was decided to request the Minister for Health to provide the necessary money. It was also agreed that the members should lobby their local T.Ds.

Carers Allowance: Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D., Minister for Social, Community & Family Affairs acknowledged receipt of suggested amendments to Carers Allowance Scheme. Comm. Hynes stated that he was disappointed with this reply. Comm. Loughnane stated that the Minister had issued costing for implementing the various proposals, these costing were not astronomical, Comm. Loughnane added. It was agreed that Comm. Loughnane would provide the Town Clerk with title under which these costing were published and that the Town Clerk should seek a copy for each member.

Housing Developments: Mr, Noel Treacy T.D. Minister for Science, Technology & Commerce, in his letter dated 27/10/98 advised the meeting that Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D. Minister for the Environment, has allocated the sum of #521,000.00 towards the provision of services for further housing development in the greater Loughrea Area. Minister Treacy stated that this should provide land for up to 1,500 new houses. The members welcomed this news. In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Tierney stated that the services generally provided are water, sewerage and surface water, widening of existing roads would not generally be covered. On the suggestion of Comm. Hynes, it was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Minister Treacy.

Development Plan for Loughrea: The County Council acknowledged receipt of submissions made by the Commissioners. Mr. Tierney stated that it is hoped to have the Draft Plan for the Loughrea Area meeting at the end of the month. In reply to Comm. Loughnane, Mr. Tierney stated that it could be possible for the County Council's Senior Planner to attend the Commissioners' meeting at which the plan will be discussed.

St. Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society: A letter from this Society, seeking funding for its forthcoming musical "Me & My Girl" was read to the meeting. The amount sought was #30.00. This was approved on the proposition of Comm. Gunter-Nix seconded by Comm. Curley.

Town Brochure: A letter from the Friends of Loughrea Heritage seeking funding from the Board towards the cost of providing a brochure on Loughrea was read. The letter stated that the brochure cost #1,200.00. On the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane, a contribution of #100.00 was approved.

Pay Increase General Operatives & Related Grades: Pay increases for General Operatives & Related Grades as set out in Circular Letter EL 11/98 was approved for employees of the Loughrea Town Commissioners on the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Barrett.

St. Brendan's Home: Comm. Gunter-Nix referred to a meeting that had taken place last June with officials of the Western Health Board regarding improvements to St. Brendan's Home. Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that she was shown through a recent 20 bedroom extension at St. Brendan's which is a credit to all concerned and she advised all members to inspect this development themselves.

Drainage to Lake: In reply to Comm. Barrett, Mr. Diskin stated that the surface water in the Cuscarrick area is piped towards the lake. There are silt traps in this pipe to trap the silt, in addition to this the water travels the final 200 meters through an open stream, this enables any sediment to settle. Comm. Barrett stated that there were complaints of oil getting into the town river. Mr. Diskin stated complaints of this nature can be reported to the local office or to the Environment Section in Galway. Comm. Loughnane stated that he has submitted a motion to the County Council requesting that the E.P.A. to include a water quality control programme for the Dunkellin River.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Tierney undertook to have the up-to-date position for the next meeting.

Fair Green Wall: Comm. Donnellan complimented the workers who had built the wall at the Fair Green and stated that Galway County Council were fortunate to have such skilled workers.

Fire Service: Comm. Curley proposed a vote of congratulations to Peter Whelan and Benny Shiel on they having completed 20 years service with Loughrea Fire Service.

Loughrea Credit Union: Comm. Gunter-Nix stated that Loughrea Credit Union is about to move to a new premises and she suggested that they should be presented with a scroll to commemorate the occasion. Comm. Morgan agreed to liaise with the Town Clerk re same.

Parking on Footpaths: Comm. Morgan stated that people are parking their cars up on the footpaths without regard for the elderly. He felt that the Guards are not doing their duty by allowing this to happen and he called on them to do their duty. Comm. Gunter-Nix suggested that it is the people who are parking illegally that are causing a problem if a problem exists.

Bypass Road: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney suggested early in the year 2000 as the likely starting date for the Loughrea Bypass.

Lattimor Corner: Mr. Diskin was asked to investigate the possibility of improving the signage at Lattimor Corner.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the ^{1st} day of December, 1998.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 7/12/98.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes, James Curley and Norman Morgan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Minutes: Minutes of last meeting held on the 9/11/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Sympathy: Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Comm. Loughnane proposed a vote of sympathy to the Loughnane family Birr, on the untimely death of Seamus Loughnane, a former Chairman of Offaly County Council. This was seconded by Comm. Hynes.

Welcome: An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mrs. Perlle McNally-Fullard, a former member of the Board who was present at the meeting.

Carers' Allowance: Comm. Hynes remarked that he was disappointed that the Minister had not removed the residential clause as a qualification for the Carer's Allowance, in the recent Budget.

Loughrea Town Plan: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Loughrea Town Plan was discussed at a County Council Area meeting to-day, it is to be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Tierney also stated that he will arrange for Mr. Gus McCarthy, S.E.E. Planning to attend a meeting. Comm. Loughnane stressed the need for a significant area of development land and was supported by Comm. Barrett.

Proposed Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that it is hoped to commence improvement works to Loughrea Sewerage Scheme in 1999.

Car Parks: Comm. Morgan stressed the need for the Commissioners to back every effort to provide additional parking in Loughrea. He referred to the Credit Union property and to Joe O'Toole's property in Dunkellin Street and proposed that the Council should again approach this person. Comm. Moloney seconded this proposition. Mr. Tierney referred to current planning application which he felt should be dealt with first.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix, St. Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society was congratulated on its presentation of the musical "Me and My Girl" and St. Raphaels College was congratulated on its presentation of "The Boyfriend".

Centenary Luncheon: The Dept. of the Environment in its letter of the 20/11/98 informed the meeting that the expenses of all elected members attending the Centenary Lunch on the 12/12/98 should be met by the Board.

A.M.A.I. Annual Spring Seminar: The meeting was advised that the Annual Spring Seminar of the A.M.A.I. on Road Safety, will be held in the Welcome Inn, Castlebar, on the 26th & 27th February next.

On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed that Comm. Gunter-Nix should attend.

Annual Contribution: The A.M.A.I. advised the Board that the Annual Contribution for 1999 is #257.50. It was agreed to pay this contribution on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Town Hall: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Tierney stated that he has no further update with regard to Loughrea Town Hall Ltd.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

a) "I will propose that Galway County Council request the Bank of Ireland to provide a car park, for its staff, at the rear of its premises at Main Street, Loughrea."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

b) "I will propose that where the footpaths in Loughrea Town are extra wide, that Galway County Council be requested to divide these footpaths with rows of bollards and to allow cars to park on the footpath outside these bollards."

Motion seconded by Comm. Barrett and passed unanimously.

Consumption of Alcoholic Drink in The Walks: Comm. Hynes referred to the problem of young people turning The Walks into a "Beer Garden" and added that he had received numerous complaints regarding same. Comm. Morgan agreed and felt that the Gardai should be more vigilant with regard to underage drinking. Comm. Gunter-Nix felt that parents should pay a greater role with regard to underage drinking. After further discussion it was decided on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix to request the gardai to give more attention to the source from which these young people are getting alcoholic drink.

Caheronaun Road: Comm. Hynes stated that people had complained to him that contractors are allowing muck and dirt to accumulate on the Caheronaun Road. Mr. Diskin stated that it is illegal for people to cause dirt to accumulate on roads but he felt that the contractors in the Caheronaun area are making a reasonable effort to clean the roadway.

Public Lighting: Comm. Curley stated that additional lights are required on the west end of Athenry Road. Comm. Hynes felt that better lighting is required along the Old Galway Road. Mr. Diskin stated that the lighting on the Athenry Road is a matter for the N.R.A. Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that he had the lights along the Main Street strengthened. Comm. Morgan thanked him for same.

Congratulations: Comm. Regan congratulated the Shop Keepers on the manner in which they have presented their premises for Christmas.

Vote of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the Sisters of Mercy on the death of Sister Margaret Mary Aherne.

This completed the business of the Board.

Signed this the 11th day of January, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/1/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes and Norman Morgan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Comm. James Curley.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 7/12/98 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Regan.

Town Plan: An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the 7 local County Councillors are prepared to meet the Commissioners to discuss the proposed Town Plan for Loughrea. Mr. Tierney explained that the Draft Plan will be available to the public but it must first be approved at a meeting of the Area Councillors and also a full Council meeting. It was agreed to defer meeting the local Councillors until after the Draft Plan is put on display.

Caheronaun Road/Park: Comm. Barrett asked if "Street Names" could be provided for Caheronaun Road and Caheronaun Park. Comm. Moloney asked if something could be done about the flooding on this road. Mr. Diskin, Town Engineer agreed to investigate both of these matters.

Public Lighting: Comm. Regan thanked the Co. Council for improving the public lighting on Galway Road. Comm. Donnellan stated that the people in Cosmona are delighted with the additional lights provided there.

Carparks: Comm. Morgan asked if there is any further information with regard to the provision of a carpark to serve the Dunkellin Street area. Mr. Tierney stated that as explained at the last meeting, a planning decision is pending on one of the premises and he is awaiting this decision before approaching this property owner. With regard to the Credit Union property, Mr. Tierney explained that he had failed to date to make contact with the Chairman of the Credit Union. In reply to Comm. Morgan, the Town Clerk stated that the recommendation regarding the provision of a carpark by the Bank of Ireland for its employees was sent to Galway Co. Council.

Parking Regulations: In reply to Comm. Moloney, Mr. Diskin stated that the Loughrea Parking Regulations were approved by the County Council and are now in force. Mr. Diskin stated that signage has yet to be provided and this will be done as soon as possible. Mr. Diskin also stated that all representation was taken on board. Mr. Tierney stated that a Traffic/Litter Warden has taken up duty and Loughrea will be one of the areas under his control. Comm. Morgan felt that Loughrea needs two Traffic Wardens while Comm. Moloney stated that parking spaces should be provided before the parking regulations are implemented.

Bypass Road: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that the National Roads Study had indicated that work on the Loughrea Bypass road should commence in the year 2000 and be completed by the year 2002.

School Transport: The Dept. of Education in its letter dated 10/12/98 gave details of its school transport system. Comm. Hynes stated that the point he wished to make referred to areas that once had a school transport service then as a result of declining numbers had lost this service, now the numbers had again increased but the Department will not restore the service. This Comm. Hynes felt was most unfair.

Underage Drinking: Supt. Martin Lally informed the meeting that the question of underage drinking and related matters are receiving attention. Comm. Donnellan remarked that the Garda presence is being noted. The meeting welcomed this news.

Garda Barracks: A letter from Mr. John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform addressed to Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister of State, Dept. of Enterprise, Trade & Employment regarding the renovation of the Garda Barracks in Loughrea was read to the meeting. The meeting welcomed the proposals and thanked Mr. Treacy for his help in the matter.

Galway Road Junction: Comm. Donnellan stated that drivers are ignoring the "Stop" sign and the white line at Galway Road/Westbridge junction and asked if something could be done. The matter was referred to the Town Engineer.

Galway Youth Federation: An Cathaoirleach stated that Ms. Bernie Smith, Director of Galway Youth Federation would like to attend the February meeting. An Cathaoirleach was authorised to invite her.

Conferences: The meeting was advised of the forthcoming conferences:

1. "Changing Role of Community & State" hosted by Cork Corporation.
2. "What is the future for our Coasts" hosted by Dublin Regional Authority.
3. "Partnership - The New Approach" Hosted by Monaghan Chamber of Commerce.
4. L.A. Members Assoc. Annual Conference in Waterford on April 8th-9th.
5. "Urban Ireland-Rural Ireland: bridging the gap or deeping the divide"
6. "Planning for the Future in our Towns and Villages" hosted by Westport U.D.C.

The meeting decided not to send delegates to nos. 1 to 5 above. No.6 to get further consideration when full information is to hand.

Refuse Dump/Landfill Site at Ballinahistil: Comm. Hynes stated that residents and landowners in the Ballinahistil area were notified that this area has been selected as one of three possible sites for a central landfill site. Comm. Hynes together with the other members outline various reasons why a super dump should not be provided in this area and he proposed that under no circumstances should Galway Co. Council provide a super dump in this area. Comm. Morgan seconded this proposal. Mr. Tierney pointed out that Galway Co. Council is obliged to provide a landfill site, certain guide lines are laid down for these sites and that a licence must be obtained from the E.P.A. for these sites.

Cost of Refuse Collection: Comm. Regan referred to the proposed increase in the cost of refuse collection from #96 to #150. Comm. Regan stated that the less well off members of our community will have great difficulty

coming to terms with this increase and he wondered if Galway Co. Council had retained any control over these private contractors when they had accepted them. Comm. Regan also made the point that the public were expected to pay the full charge even though they may only require to use the service once or twice a month. It was agreed on the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. Morgan to request the 3 contractors working in the Loughrea area to introduce a system whereby people would pay as they use the service.

Flooding: Comm. Donnellan referred to flooding which is occurring in the Athenry Road area. Mr. Diskin stated that this flooding is as a result of work carried out in the development of Ashlawn Park, he will bring this to the attention of the developer when the Co. Council is asked to take this area in charge.

Unauthorised Camping: Comm. Regan brought to the attention of Mr. Tierney, the unauthorised camping which is taking place at Caheronaun, Cosmona and the Yellow Bog and he asked if anything could be done about it. Mr. Tierney stated that the Council is aware of the problem and is doing all in its power to find a solution.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Barrett seconded by Comm. Gunter-Nix, employees of the E.S.B., Bord Telecom and Galway Co. Council were congratulated on the efficient and unselfish manner in which they had dealt with storm problems over the Christmas period.

Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

1. Fr. Damien ODC. The Abbey, on the death of his brother Fr. Basil ODC.
2. The Connaughton Family, The Hill, on the death of Cyril Connaughton.
3. The McGhee Family, The Hill, on the death of Arthur McGhee.
4. Mrs. G. Colleran, Masonbrook, on the death of her father.
5. The Callanan Family, Ballingran, Kilchreest on the death of Michael Callanan.
6. The Connolly Family, Ballyfintan on the death of Pakie Connolly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of February, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/2/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, Matt Loughnane and James Curley.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11/1/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Agenda: Comm. Regan proposed that the agenda be deferred so that St. Brendan's Home might be discussed. There was no seconder for this.

Caheronaun Road: Comm. Barrett thank the Town Engineer for the improvements which were carried out to the Caheronaun Road since the last meeting.

Carparks: Comm. Morgan again referred to the provision of a carpark at Dunkellin Street. Mr. Tierney stated that a final planning decision is pending on the suggested site and he will report back to the next meeting.

Flooding at Ashlawn: In reply to Comm. Curley, Mr. Diskin stated that the flooding off Ashlawn is as a result of Telecom cables obstructing pipes laid by the developer. This will be dealt with when this Estate is offered to the Council.

Unauthorised Camping: Comm. Moloney referred to the unauthorised camping which is taking place at Caheronaun and highlighted the dangers arising from same. Different reasons were suggested as to why some of these people had left houses to park on the roadside. An Cathaoirleach suggested that it be left with Mr. Tierney to report back to the next meeting.

Galway Youth Federation: The meeting was addressed by Bernie Smith, Bridget McGuane and Helen Butler of the Galway Youth Federation. These ladies informed the meeting that a Youth Information Centre has opened in the old parish office at Lakeside House, Barrack Street, Loughrea, which is funded for 1 year. This centre will provide a free, confidential information service to youths from the age of 10 years and upwards and also to parents etc. The members welcomed this information and An Cathaoirleach thanked the three ladies for attending the meeting. On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach seconded by Comm. Morgan is was agreed to request the Minister for Education to provide funding for this project to cover a 5 year period rather than for 1 year.

Traveller Accommodation Programme: Galway Co. Council advised the Board that it is about to prepare a "Draft 5 Year Accommodation Programme" as per Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. Submissions to be made not later than 12/2/99. It was agreed that if individual members so wished they could make submissions.

Carparks: The Co. Council in its letter of the 2/2/99 stated that it has attempted to acquire land for a further car parks but the cost is proving prohibitive working out at approx. #10,000 per space and suggests controlling the use of the existing car parks to encourage short term parking. Comm. Morgan made the point that all traffic must travel via the Westbridge. Comm. Donnellan made the point that there is no traffic problem at the Westbridge, that the problems occur up the Main Street. It was proposed by Comm. Morgan and seconded by Comm. Loughnane that Galway Co. Council be requested to acquire that portion of the old railway line which is owned by Iarnrod Eireann.

By-Pass Road: The N.R.A. stated in its letter to Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D. Minister for Science, Technology & Commerce that the Loughrea By-Pass Road is scheduled to commence in the year 2001 and will take approximately two years to complete.

Town Projects: Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D. Minister for Science, Technology & Commerce informed the meeting that the sum of #4.60 million has been allocated for Loughrea Sewerage Scheme and circa #560,000 for the construction of Loughrea Library and that both projects will commence soon. Comm. Hynes expressed the hope that locals will secure employment on these schemes when they commence. Comm. Donnellan stated that he never agreed with proposed location of the library. Comm. Loughnane thanked Minister Treacy and proposed a vote of congratulations to him on being selected as a candidate for the European Election. This was seconded by Comm. Morgan.

Site of Rubbish Dump: A letter from Mr. Michael Daly, Chairman, Ballynahistle, Kilrickle/Loughrea anti Super Dump Campaign, expressing reasons why the this dump should not be located in the Ballynahistle area was read to the meeting. The necessity for a super dump was discussed at length by the meeting. On the proposition of Comm. Curley seconded by Comm. Hynes it was agreed to support the Anti Super Group Campaign. Comm. Morgan proposed that Galway County Council be informed that the Loughrea Town Commissioners support the sentiments expressed in the letter, this was seconded by Comm. Moloney.

Conferences: The meeting was informed of the following conferences.

1. "Taking Local Government into the Millennium" Hosted by Dept. of Government, University College Cork.
2. "Planning for the Future in our Towns and Villages" hosted by Westport U.D.C.

It was decided not to send delegates to the above conferences.

Subsistence Allowances: Subsistence Allowances as set out in Circular Letter EL 1/99 of the 29/1/99, in relation to Local Authority Officers and Elected Members, were approved on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Loughnane.

Motion submitted by Comm. James Regan:
"I will propose that Galway County Council provide a second Fire Tender for Loughrea."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan.

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday, 8 February, I will propose that Galway Co. Council be requested to

- a) "Widen the road at the east end of Mount Carmel Crescent for the purpose of providing a footpath at this most dangerous junction"
This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.
- b) "Provide a new lower road at Mount Pleasant starting east of the Vocational School so as to leave the present road for those using the New Cemetery, thereby relieving the present frequent congestion."
There was no seconder for this proposal.

Motions submitted by Comm. Pat Hynes:

- a) "That Galway County Council immediately provide free of charge copies of it's Waste Management Strategy Plan to each member of Loughrea Town Commission Board; to the relevant residents and landowners of Kilrickle and New Inn in whose areas potential Landfill Sites have been identified by Galway Co. Council and to any other member of the public on request."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney and passed.
- b) "That this elected Body call on the Western Health Board to scrap it's plans to downgrade St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, which if implemented would result in staff job losses, suffering and inconveniences to patients and their relatives and lasting damage to the social and economic life of Loughrea and surrounding areas."
This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.
Comm. Hynes requested the Town Clerk to read a letter concerning the future of St. Brendan's which Comm. Hynes had received from Ms. S. Ryan, C.E.O. setting out the plans for St. Brendan's. An Cathaoirleach referred to the minutes of a special meeting held on the 29/6/98 and at which officials of the Western Health Board were present. The proposals set out in Dr. Ryan's letter were the exact same as the proposals outlined at that meeting and which were welcomed by the Board. Comm. Regan proposed that a special meeting be held next Monday night to which the workers in St. Brendan's be invited. Comm. Curley seconded this proposal. Comm. Morgan proposed a direct negative and was seconded by Comm. Barrett. After further discussion it was decided that should the workers at St. Brendan's seek permission to attend the next meeting of the Board, their request would be granted.

- c) "That Galway County Council as a matter of urgency complete it's road works programme at The Lake Road/Knockanima area."
This was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Mr. Diskin stated that he would not accept that this section of road is dangerous. It is within an 30 M.P.H., weather conditions are not helping, the potholes are being taken care of but final restoration will not be carried out until the weather is more suitable, perhaps in April.

1999 Roads Programme: In reply to Comm. Regan, Mr. Diskin stated that the 1999 Roads Programme is not yet finalized but that work on Barrack St. is approved as part of an early start scheme.

Church of Ireland: Comm. Morgan stated that an undertaken was given that the boundary wall of St. Brendan's Cemetery would be face with stone. This work is not yet done.

Childrens Burial Ground: Comm. Donnellan referred to a previous request to have a wall built around Kilnabasty Childrens Burial Ground. Mr. Diskin pointed out that this burial ground is located on private property and the provision of such a wall would create implications for the land owner.

Boundary Wall at St. Laurencesfields: Comm. Morgan stated that despite many appeals, the Council had failed to provide a boundary wall between its property and that of Mrs. Perlie McNally-Fullard. Comm. Morgan stated that he fails to understand how the Council provided a wall for other houses in the area. Mr. Tierney explained that the wall was provided as part of the St. Brendan's Court housing development. Money was not provided when the St. Laurencesfields houses were provided.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of March, 1999.

Mary Gunter Six
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/3/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan and James Curley.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Comm. Matt Loughnane.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 8/2/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Caheronaun Road: Comm. Barrett referred to some flooding that is taking place on the lower end of Caheronaun and also some bollards that are on the roadside. Mr. Diskin stated that with regard to the flooding the contractor has some work to complete to remedy this while the area coned off has to be surfaced by Bord Telecom.

Waste Management: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that a copy of the County Council's Waste Management Plan will be made available to the Members on application and also to the Anti Dump Committees. In addition a copy will be available in the Area Council Office and the Area Library.

Childrens Burial Ground: Mr. Diskin stated that Mr. Michael Ryan, owner of the land in which the Kilnabasty Childrens Burial Ground is located has no objection to a wall being built around same but he does not wish to have a pathway leading into it. Mr. Diskin further stated that the cost of providing this wall is #10,000.00 and that no budget is provided for same. Comm. Donnellan stated that the provision of a wall around this B.G. would be a nice gesture for the Millennium and he proposed that a application be made to Minister Brennan for funding for same. Comm. Barrett seconded this proposal.

Town Plan: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Draft Town Plan for Loughrea is approved and is about to go on public display. It was agreed that Mr. Gus McCarthy, Senior Planning Officer be asked to attend the next meeting. Mr. Tierney agreed to see if copies of the Plan can be made available to the members.

Abstract of Accounts: Mr. Tierney presented the Abstract of Accounts for year ended 31/12/98. Mr. Tierney explained that an over expenditure of #516 in salaries and wages and an increased contribution of #10640.00 towards the Urban Renewal Scheme was met by savings under other headings. The Abstract was noted and the over expenditures approved on the proposition of An Cathaoirleach seconded by Comm. Barrett.

St. Brendan's Hospital: Dr. S. Ryan, C.E.O. Western Health Board in her letter of the 1/3/99 stressed that her Board has no plans to downgrade St. Brendan's but is in fact seeking funds to expand the services.

Comms. Gunter-Nix, Morgan and Barrett welcomed the assurances given by Dr. Ryan. Comm. Curley advised the meeting that a Project Committee, consisting of the Administrator, Matron, Nurses, Attendants, Maintenance Staff and Porters, was elected in St. Brendan's. This Committee was advised that they would be in breach of their contract to have discussions with any public body regarding the future of St. Brendan's. Comms. Hynes, Barrett and Donnellan took exception to the fact that the workers are not allowed to discuss their problems freely.

Cross/Ballyfa Anti-Dump Committee: The meeting received a deputation from the Cross/Ballyfa Anti-Dump Committee. The deputation consisted of - Teresa Hannon, Vincent Costello, Jimmy Noone and Thomas McDonagh. The members of the deputation outline their objections to the proposed dump and their difficulty in obtaining information from Galway Co. Council. The members of the deputation thanked the meeting for receiving them and asked for the support of the Commissioners in their opposition to the dump.

Swimming Pool: Geraldine Murray, Gay Burke and Michael Carty from the Loughrea Swimming Pool Committee addressed the meeting. They informed the meeting that at present they have #158,927.00 in the funds. They had just received a Feasibility Study which they will submit to the County Council so that a grant application can be lodged. The estimated cost of the facility is #2.3M which will require a local contribution of #420,000.00. An Cathaoirleach complimented and thanked the Pool Committee on the amount of work which they have put into the project.

Christmas Lighting: The Chamber of Commerce in its letter of the 6/2/99, thanked the Commissioners for their contribution towards the cost of the Christmas lighting in Loughrea and submitted details of its income and expenditure regarding same.

Road Safety: The Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in its letter of the 25/2/99 set out the procedure with the regard to the enforcement of road safety laws. Comm. Barrett stated that he hoped the local gardai will enforce the law governing the use of Diggers, J.C.B.s etc.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners to be held on Monday 8th March, 1999, I will propose:-

- a) "That Galway County Council be requested to provide waste skips at Barrack St. for two weeks in March for the purpose of having unwanted household appliances etc. taken away."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

The Town Clerk explained that in the past a bin was provided in January to dispose of Christmas trees. A shredding service was provided this year. A bin is usually provided during National Clean Up Week in May/June and it is hoped that this will be provided again this year.

- b) "To thank Galway County Council for improving the public lighting in our town over the last year and would they consider additional lights at Athenry Road as there are no lights at the entrance to our town coming from Galway."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Diskin stated that it is hoped that the N.R.A. will provide these

lights this year. Comm. Moloney asked that the Masonbrook road be considered for lighting. Mr. Diskin explained that the annual budget is low and that there are areas within the town that require upgrading before lighting can be extended.

- c) "To ask Galway County Council to extend the double yellow lines for at least 5 metres at the picture hall door going west for you have no vision coming from Church St. going out on Barrack St." This motion was deferred pending a discussion, later in the meeting, on improvements to Barrack St. under an Urban Renewal Scheme.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:-

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners on Monday 8 March 1999, I will propose that Galway County Council be requested :

- A) "To have carried out by the highest authority in planning in Ireland, an in-depth investigation as to why the planning laws, as applied in Loughrea town, are used to deprive applicants of their rights as citizens to be dealt with on an equal basis. Further to investigate why Hole-in-the-Wall developments - with no car parking and inadequate or no open space are granted, while a development with adequate car parking and open space is turned down."

There was no seconded for this proposal.

- b) "To narrow the footpath on the north side of Dunkellin St., from the kiosk to Hessions; along the full length of Beatty's and the AIB on the west side of Church St., and from Boland's to Carty's on the east side of Moo e St."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Diskin pointed out that the ground outside the AIB is bank property. Comm. Morgan agreed to take this matter up with the bank.

- c) "To prohibit parking along the east wall of the public toilets at the Westbridge; and that the road thereat be lined in lanes, so as to reduce hold-ups and give every driver a fair chance."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan

Mr. Diskin was asked to investigate motions (b) and (c) above and report back to the next meeting.

Urban Renewal: Mr. Tierney stated that it is hoped to be carried out improvement along Barrack St. from Piggots St. to the Town Hall under the 1999 Urban Renewal Scheme and he sought the approval of the meeting for same. Mr. Diskin explained that the proposal is subject to the residents in that area of Barrack St. agreeing to same. The proposal had the unanimous approval of the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the following:

1. Pakie Burke, Kilnadeemna,
2. Mrs. Carmel Hession, Dunkellin St., Loughrea.
3. Fr. Gerard Flynn, ODC.
4. Mrs. Flynn, Gort Road, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of April, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/4/99/

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Tom Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, Gus McCarthy, S.E.E. Planning, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 8/3/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Loughrea Draft Plan: Mr. Gus McCarthy, Senior Planning Officer with Galway County Council presented the proposed Draft Plan for Loughrea. With the help of slides, Mr. McCarthy indicated the proposed zoning areas. Mr. McCarthy stated that the proposed plan will be on display for 3 months, with a possible extension depending on submissions. Mr. McCarthy dealt with various questions and suggestions from the members. An Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. McCarthy for attending the meeting and for his excellent presentation. This was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Lattimor Bridge: Comm. Barrett complimented the Town Engineer and his staff on the efficient manner in which they attended to the problem at Lattimor Bridge on Barrack Street.

Traffic at Cigna: Comm. Hynes stated that he had received a letter from Cigna expressing concern for the workers employed in the industrial estate at Greeneenagh and he urged the council to improve the safety in this area. Mr. Diskin explained that he had received a copy of a similar type letter which was sent to the Co. Council. Mr. Diskin explained that this location is within the 40 M.P.H. speed limit, the public lighting is up to N.R.A. standard and the N.R.A. had not suggested any special attention for the area. Mr. Diskin indicated that the matter will be looked at.

Millennium Project: The National Millennium Committee in its letter dated April 1st acknowledged receipt of an application for funding to provide a wall around the Childrens Burial Ground at Caherlavine and stated that same will be referred to the National Millennium Committee for consideration.

Motions submitted by Comm. Jimmy Curley:

- a) "At the next meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners, I propose to ask Galway County Council and the Town Commission Board to have lights erected around Corry's Fields next year for one of Loughrea's Millennium projects for the year 2000."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.

Mr. Diskin pointed out that initially the Commissioners did not want lights at Corrys Field. It was agreed to get an estimate from the E.S.B. to provide lights on the lake side of the field.

b) "To ask Galway County Council what is the position with the residential parking permits for Loughrea town"

Mr. Kavanagh informed the meeting that there is no provision for residential parking permits in Loughrea. Mr. Diskin stated that some individuals have applied to the Co. Council for permits.

Motions submitted by Comm. Pat Hynes:

a) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners encourage the Western Commission to locate an office in Loughrea."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan and passed unanimously.

b) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners prevail on Galway County Council and the Government to provide starter type housing at an affordable cost."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Morgan
Mr. Kavanagh stated that they are aware of this need and bear it in mind when land is being acquired for housing.

c) "That the Government re introduce the home improvement grants on a means tested basis."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

a) "That Galway County Council be requested to contact Mr. Joseph Moloney, Knockauncoura, Loughrea, for the purpose of discussing with him the possibility of purchasing his property, which is adjoining the west side of the Co. Council car park, Main St., Loughrea with a view to enlarging the present said car park."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney

b) "That Galway Co. Council be requested to investigate the possibility of purchasing houses which have been vacant for several years at Cosmona, Loughrea; and which if the owners agree, would provide badly needed houses for those who urgently require them"

This motion was seconded by Comm. Barrett.
The Town Clerk stated that there is a difficulty with regard to obtaining the names of the householders in question. Comm. Morgan agreed to provide the names.

c) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners request the N.R.A. and Galway County Council to provide roundabouts at the east and west ends and at the Cosmona crossing on the north side of the proposed Loughrea By-Pass, Because: (a) They would be cheaper. (b) They would be faster to construct. (c) They would not be an ugly intrusion on our beautiful rural landscape. (d) They would not be boxing-in the people in Loughrea town; and forcing residents to use a fly-over to get into Loughrea when returning from Galway. (e) It would put an end to the unjust plan to provide a free-flow from Dublin-Galway and Galway-Dublin, by robbing the residents of Loughrea of an equal right to their free-flow system. (f) It would put a stop to the unjust and insensitive plan to erect a fly-over beside the large Cosmona housing estate, which has been there for approximately 100 years.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Moloney.

Corry's Field: It was agreed that the official opening of "Corry's Field" should take place during the term of the present Board. An Cathaoirleach agreed to discuss the project with members of the Corry family. Comm. Regan agreed to investigate the possibility of providing a suitable type naming stone.

Euro Town Project: Comm. Hynes complimented the Loughrea Chamber of Commerce on launching Loughrea as Ireland's first Euro Town.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Comm. Moloney congratulated the Chamber of Commerce and everyone associated with the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was an outstanding success.

Caheronaun: It was agreed that Comms. Moloney and Barrett should discuss with the residents in the Caheronaun area the possibility of choosing an agreed name for the Caheronaun/Danesfort road.

Tennis Club: Comm. Morgan stated that the fence around the tennis club is in need of replacing, the club is having difficulty in raising funds and he asked if the Council would consider replacing this fence. Mr. Diskin stated that the Council has replaced the boundary hedge, he has had discussions with the Secretary of the Tennis Club and has stated that the Council will replace the fence if the club provides the necessary material. Comm. Morgan agreed to report back to the club.

Week-end Medical Service: Comm. Barrett stated that the week-end medical service in Loughrea is very poor and he felt that this matter should be highlighted and taken up with local G.Ps. Comm. Moloney stated that in the past people had complained to her but they did not wish to have their names mentioned.

Comm. Hynes thought that Comm. Barrett was a bit unfair with his remarks and he referred to a rota system which the local doctors have in place for week-ends. As there was no support for Comm. Barretts suggestion there was no further discussion.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

1. Gerry Heenan, Cosmona, on the death of his wife Kitty.
2. The Milmoie family, Fahy Gardens, on the death of Bernard.
3. The Powell family, Kelly's Street on the death of Ruth Powell.
4. The Fahy family, Moyleen on the death of their mother.
5. Brendan Clarke, Cosmona on the death of his sister, Mrs. Baker.
6. The Walsh family. Oultort, Portumna on the death of their daughter.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of May, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Six
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/5/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Teresa Moloney, Brendan Donnellan, Oliver Barrett, James Regan, Pat Hynes, Norman Morgan, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst.Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed a minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late Mrs. Mary Kilkenny, sister of Comm. Loughnane.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 12/4/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Morgan seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

Corry's Field: It was agreed to have the official opening of the "Lt. Colonel Dan Corry Memorial Park" on Sunday 30th May, at 7 p.m. with a reception afterwards in O'Dea's Hotel.

Name for "Caheronaun/Danesfort" Road: Both Comms. Moloney and Barrett informed the meeting that they had interviewed some of the residents in this area and these residents had indicated that they are prepared to accept what ever name is chosen.

Car Parks: In reply to Comm. Morgan, Mr. Tierney stated that both himself and the Town Engineer had inspected Mr. Moloney's property at Main Street. A warehouse on the property complicates the proposal. Mr. Diskin who has met Mr. Moloney, stated that Mr. Moloney had asked the Council to put a price on the property, this will necessitate a valuation which in turn might be outside the resources of the Council. Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Council is endeavouring to get a car park to accommodate the people who leave their cars in town all day.

Cosmona Houses: In reply to Comm. Loughnane, Comm. Morgan stated that he had spoken with some of the owners of the vacant houses in Cosmona and he is awaiting a feedback on same.

Lights at "Lt. Colonel Dan Corry Park": Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that he is awaiting a written quotation for the provision of lights in this park. He was informed verbally by the ESB that it will require 35 lights at an approximate cost of #15,000.00 while the ducting will cost another #15,000.00, with an annual maintenance cost of #50/#60 per light.

Houses at St. Brendan's Court: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that the houses at St. Brendan's Court will be ready for letting in 2/3 weeks time and that there are no immediate plans for Respond to provide additional houses. Mr. Tierney in reply to Comm. Morgan stated that houses were not recently allocated in this area.

Omagh Bomb Tragedy: An Cathaoirleach presented each member with a copy of a letter which she had received from Omagh District Council thanking her for the book of condolence which the Board had presented to the Omagh District Council.

Development of Superstores: Loughrea Chamber of Commerce in its letter of the 23/4/99 expressed its concern at the possible development of superstores in Ireland. The Chamber referred to pending legislation and asked the Board to communicate its concern to the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Noel Dempsey. The Chamber had the unanimous support of the Board in this matter. Comm. Loughnane agreed to raise the matter at a meeting of the A.M.A.I.

Loughrea By Pass: The N R A acknowledged representation made by the Board regarding roundabouts on the proposed Loughrea By Pass.

Fire Fighting Service: The meeting was informed by Galway County Council that analysis carried out did not support or justify the need for a second Fire Fighting Tender in Loughrea. The meeting agreed to request the provision of a Emergency Tender (ET) for Loughrea.

Western Development Commission: The Dept. of Agriculture acknowledge request to have a Western Development Commission office located in Loughrea.

Home Improvement Grants: The Dept. of the Environment acknowledged a request to have a means tested home improvement grant scheme re-introduced. Mr. Tierney stated that he had put forward proposals for home improvement grants to the Department but he understood that they are unlikely to get approval.

Motions submitted by Comm. Norman Morgan:

At the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners, to be held on Monday 10 May, 1999, I will propose Galway County Council be requested:

a. "That the roadway in the Cosmona Housing Estate be swept and the weeds removed on a regular basis."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Donnellan.

b. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners provide a proper fence on the west side of the Tennis club, so as to discourage persons with roller-blades and skate boards going directly from the Car Park onto the tennis courts' surface."

Mr. Diskin stated that improvements were carried out to this area, during the course of these improvements the Council had agreed to removed an old fence and erected a new fence provided that the Tennis Club supplied the materials Tennis Club is finding it difficult to provide the material and it now wants the Commissioners to do the work. Mr. Diskin stated that he had advised the Club that it could apply for an amenity grant. It was agreed that Comm. Morgan should go back to the club with this information.

c. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners make every effort to secure the funds necessary to bring Corry's Field up to standard and good maintenance."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Comm. Regan felt that Corry's Field should be put on the agenda for a

coming meeting. Mr. Diskin agreed to have a report ready for the July meeting.

Traffic Calming: On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Morgan it was agreed to request the County Council to have traffic calming measures introduced near the entrance to Cigna factory. On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by Comm. Loughnane it was also agreed to request the introduction of traffic calming measures at the entrance to St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea.

Selection of Chairperson: It was proposed by Comm. Moloney and seconded by Comm. Hynes that the Chairperson be selected in the sequence of the members election. The proposal was not considered as it was felt that such a proposal would require a notice of motion and that it would be a matter for the incoming Board.

Path at St. Laurencesfields: Comm. Regan asked if the Council might consider putting a path from St. Laurencesfields onto Athenry Road to facilitate school buses etc. It was agreed to examine this proposal.

Congratulations: Comm. Hynes congratulated the people who have organised the forthcoming "Week for the Elderly" which is about to commence in St. Brendan's Home on Sunday next.

Members Retiring: Comms. Donnellan, Barrett and Moloney informed the meeting that they are not seeking re-election. They expressed their thanks to the members, present and past, officials and local press for their help and courtesy over the years and wished the outgoing members success in the forthcoming election. All present paid tribute to the retiring members for their contributions during their term of office.

Sympathy: Votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

1. Comm. Matt Loughnane and family on the death of this sister, Mary Kilkenny.
2. Mrs. Geraldine Kennedy, 34 Monaloe Ave. Blackrock on the death of her husband, Paddy Kennedy, M.P.
3. The Daniels Family, Cosmona, on the death of Peggy Daniels.
4. The Lyons Family, Kincullia on the death of Michael Lyons.
5. The Kenny Family, Athenry Road on the death of Sean Kenny.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of July, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the First Annual Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 21/6/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, James Regan.

Officials: Tom Kavanagh, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting started with a prayer.

Election of Cathaoirleach: The motion was proposed for this position by Comm. Pat Hynes seconded by Comm. Anna Cronin and seconded by Comm. James Curley.

Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix proposed by Comm. James Regan, seconded by Comm. Gabriel Burke.

A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

For Comm. Hynes: Comms. Hynes, Cronin, Marmion and Maura Kelly-Stewart. 4 votes.

For Comm. Gunter-Nix: Comms. Hynes, Curley, Gabriel Burke, Matt Loughnane and James Regan. 5 votes.

Comm. Gunter-Nix was declared elected.

Both Comm. Gunter-Nix and Comm. Hynes thanked their proposers and seconders and the other members who had voted for them.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach: Comm. James Curley was proposed by Comm. Pat Hynes and seconded by Comm. Anna Cronin.

As there was no other proposal for this position, Comm. James Curley was declared elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Election of delegates to the A.M.A.I. 2 delegates.

First Delegate.

Comm. Pat Hynes was proposed by Comm. Curley and seconded by Comm. Cronin.

Comm. Matt Loughnane was proposed by Comm. Gabriel Burke and seconded by Comm. James Regan.

A vote was taken and resulted as follows:

For Comm. Hynes: Comms. Hynes, Curley, Cronin and Kelly-Stewart. 4 votes.

For Comm. Loughnane: Comms. Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, James Regan, Orla Burke and Mary Gunter-Nix. 5 votes.

Comm. Loughnane was declared elected.

Second Delegate.

Comm. James Regan was proposed by Comm. Gabriel Burke, seconded by Comm. Matt Loughnane.

Comm. Anna Cronin was proposed by Comm. Hynes, seconded by Comm. Kelly Stewart.

A vote was taken and resulted as follows:-

For Comm. Regan: Comm. Regan, Comm. Hynes, Comm. Kelly Stewart, Comm. Gunter-Nix. 5 votes.

For Comm. Cronin: Comm. Cronin, Comm. Hynes, Comm. Kelly Stewart, Comm. Regan was declared elected.

Comms. Hynes and Cronin stated that one group has monopolised the meeting and they took grave exception to this.

Result of Election: The Chairman referred to the ballot paper (Uncontested) which he had circulated to each member. This was noted by the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of July, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 12/7/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, James Regan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 10/5/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm Curley.

Minutes of Annual Meeting held on the 21/6/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. G. Burke, seconded by Comm. Curley.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Caheronaun Road: Mr. Diskin informed Comm. Cronin that the street name sign for "Caheronaun Road" is on order.

St. Laurencesfields/Athenry Road Path: In reply to Comm. Regan, Mr. Tierney stated that the overall plan for this area is not yet decided. Comm. Loughnane requested that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter somewhere opposite Wards Filling Station.

Bypass Road: Comm. G. Burke asked if there will be roundabouts on the Bypass. Mr. Diskin explained that there will be no roundabouts on the bypass itself but there may be on the roads to Athenry and Bullaun. Mr. Tierney explained that approval to the Preliminary Report was awaited from the NRA. This is expected before the end of August. The Council would then proceed to the Planning Consultation and Land Acquisition stages. He was confident that work on the By Pass would commence before the end of Y2K.

Carparks: In reply to Comm. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that he is negotiating for the provision of a carpark that would serve people who park their cars for long periods in Loughrea.

Correspondence:

Lt. Col. Dan Corry Memorial Park: Mr. Donal Corry, of "St Judes", 50 The Paddocks, Naas, on behalf of the Corry family, thanked the Town Commissioners for dedicating this park to the memory of their father.

Loughrea Heritage & Development Co. Ltd.: Mr. Gerard McInerney, Chairman of this Group thanked former Comm. Brendan Donnellan for representing the Commission on his Board. Mr. McInerney pointed out that as Mr. Donnellan is now retired as a Commissioner, the Loughrea Heritage & Dev. Co. Ltd., invited the Board to nominate a member to replace Mr. Donnellan. On the proposition of Comm. Regan seconded by Comm. G. Burke, Cathaoirleach Gunter-Nix was appointed on a pro tempore basis. It was agreed that a permanent representative be appointed at the September meeting.

A.M.A.I.: The meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. will take place in the Anner Hotel, Thurles on Sept. 14-16 and that motions must be submitted by July 16th. It was agreed on the suggestion of Comm. Loughnane the following motion be submitted to the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I.

"That the present pending legislation which restricts the size of Retail Shopping Centres be passed and that no exceptions be allowed. The commercial fabric of rural communities must not be destroyed by companies attempting to develop here what is no longer permitted elsewhere."

Fire Service: Galway County Council in its letter of May 24th stated that an analysis previously carried out in relation to a request for an extra fire engine in Loughrea also indicated that a emergency tender is also not justified. The members did not accept this reply and it was agreed to discuss this problem with the Area Councillors at the September meeting.

Home Improvement Grants: In reply to a request from Loughrea Town Commissioners for the re-introduction of means-tested home improvement grants, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D. Minister for the Environment & L. G. in his letter of the 16/7/99 outlined the various house improvement grants in existence and stated that funds are not available for improvements to private houses generally. Comm. Loughnane asked Mr. Tierney if it would be possible for him to know for the next meeting if sufficient funding is available to meet all Essential Repair Grant applications. Comm. Hynes stated that Minister Dempsey is well aware of the need for means-tested Home Improvement Grants and he proposed that the Minister be requested to reconsider his decision. Comm. Kelly-Stewart seconded this.

Resolution from Birr U.D.C.: The meeting considered the following resolution from Birr U.D.C.

"That this Council calls on the Government to provide for the payment of the fuel allowance for O.A.P.s at the rate of #5 during the Summer period and #10 during the Winter period seeing how cold and wet our Summers can be."

On the proposition of Comm. Hynes seconded by An Cathaoirleach, it was decided to support this motion subject to the #10 being paid all year round.

Auditor's Report: Mr. Tierney presented the Auditor's Report for year ending 31/12/98. The Report which was satisfactory, was noted.

Revision of Remuneration - 29th Pay Round Phase 3. In accordance with Circular Letter EL 5/99 of the 28/6/99, the 29 Pay Round Phase 3 insofar as it relates to employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners, was approved on the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. G. Burke.

Meeting with Area County Councillors: On the suggestion of Comm. Regan it was agreed to invite the County Councillors for the Loughrea area to the September meeting.

Motions submitted by Comm. Anna Cronin:

a. "That Loughrea Town Commissioners support the proposal that the Town Hall becomes once again a centre of entertainment for the people of the town. Proposals for use include Cinema; Theatre; Cybercafe; Bowling etc. thereby providing entertainment for young and not so young."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Kelly-Stewart.

Comm. Cronin stated that she is aware that discussions are ongoing with the Directors of Loughrea Town Hall Ltd. but she felt that the proposals may not be in the best interest of the people of the town who do not want a Heritage Centre or Museum. Comms. Hynes and G. Burke stated that they supported the idea of a theatre etc. while Comm. Kelly-Stewart referred to the support for Art & Drama in Loughrea.

Mr. Tierney stated that it is common knowledge that discussions are taking place with the Town Hall Directors, these discussions were initiated as a result of prompting by this Board, and he complimented the Directors of the Town Hall for the manner in which they had received him. Mr. Tierney stated that it will cost in excess of #600,000 to restore the Town Hall and he outlined proposals that will raise portion of this money. Mr. Tierney added that the intention was to restore the Town Hall and accommodate the Heritage Group, the Commissioners and the Galway County Council including for a One Stop Shop Centre. It would become a Civic Centre for the people of Loughrea. It was an once off opportunity to restore the building to its former glory. His recommendation was to continue along these lines. He would be having a meeting with the Town Hall directors within the next two weeks and he would report back to the Commissioners at the September meeting. After some further discussion it was agreed to defer the matter until the September meeting at which stage Mr. Tierney would report back and those proposing alternative uses might advise on requirements and funding proposals for same.

b."That the proposals submitted by the Amenity Development Group with regard to the entrance gates to the Walks be examined and hopefully put into practice."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

Mr. Diskin stated that similar suggestions had come from previous Boards. While this work is very desirable it could be very expensive and funding is not provided for same. Perhaps it could be looked at under Urban Renewal next year. Mr. Diskin agreed to investigate to possibility of a short term solution.

Motions submitted by Comm. Pat Hynes:

a."That Galway Co. Council repair/lay footpaths at Bohercom/Brides Grove; Gort Road near Willie O'Loughlin's and M1 Bruton's houses; Athenry Road from Creavins to Perlie Fullards.

This motion was seconded by Comm. Kelly-Stewart.

Mr. Diskin stated that quite a lot of the footpaths in the town needs attention, some in busier areas than those mentioned. The path at Bohercom is not in charge of the Council. Athenry Road is under consideration and may be done towards the end of the year. Comm. Loughnane stated that some footpaths are being damaged by the trees and need to be examined.

b."That a 24 hour Ambulance Service be provided at St. Brendan's Home."

This motion was seconded by Comm. Curley.

On the proposition of Comm. Loughnane seconded by Comm. Kelly-Stewart it was agreed to request a meeting with the Western Health Board via its Chairperson - Ms. Beverly Cooper-Flynn. In addition to a written request for a meeting, Comm. Loughnane agreed to contact Ms. Cooper-Flynn.

c."That a light be provided at junction of Old Galway Road & Coys Boreen."

This was seconded by Comm. Cronin.

Rowdyism on Streets: Comm. Hynes referred to the increase of rowdyism on the streets at night and he proposed that additional gardai be provided on the streets at night and at weekends. Comm. Curley seconded this. It was decided to seek a meeting with the local Garda Superintendent.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Comm. Curley, Comms. Hynes and Loughnane were congratulated on their election to Galway Co. Council.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The Kelly Family, Dunkellin Street on the death of Kieran.
2. The O'Rourke Family, Moore Street on the death of Michael.
3. The relatives of the late Mary Sweeney, Galway Road, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 13th day of September, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/9/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, James Regan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

County Councillors: Cllr. Michael Regan, Michael Fahy, Jimmy McClearn and Ulick Burke, T.D.

Apology: Cllr. Michael Cunningham.

Meeting opened with prayers.

An Cathaoirleach welcomed the Councillors and stated that they were invited to attend tonight's meeting as a result of a proposal by Comm. Regan. Comm. Regan stated the purpose of this meeting is to seek the co-operation of the Councillors in furthering the needs of Loughrea. The following services were discussed: Roads and in particular the Gort Road and the By-pass. The meeting was unanimous that the Gort Road is in urgent need of widening.

Fire Service: A more comprehensive service is required.

Water & Sewerage : Both need upgrading.

Arts: Rural towns should get more consideration.

Industry: The meeting agreed that Loughrea was neglected in this regard. It was agreed on the suggestion of An Cathaoirleach that the Commissioners should meet with the County Councillors and other interested parties to discuss further the provision of industry in Loughrea. The Councillors agreed to inform the Cathaoirleach of a suitable date for the meeting.

Urban Renewal: Cllr. Regan expressed the hope that Loughrea will be accepted for the Urban Renewal.

Housing: That proper attention be given to the provision of "Green Belts" and "Play Areas" in housing estates.

Town Plan: Comm. Loughnane stated that the Commissioners had made recommendations with regard to the proposed Town Plan and he alleged that the Councillors were not made aware of these recommendations. It was agreed on Comm. Loughnane's proposal that each of the County Councillors should get a copy of the minutes of the Loughrea Town Commissioners meeting of the 19/10/98.

The Councillors thanked the meeting for inviting them and all expressed the opinion that meetings such as this are beneficial. An Cathaoirleach thanked the Councillors for attending at which stage the - Councillors and Commr. Orla Burke and Maura Kelly-Stewart left the meeting.

Congratulations: An Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of congratulations to the Galway Minor team on its All-Ireland success and in particular the two local members - Johnny O'Loughlin and Brian Mahony. Commr. Curley seconded this proposal and wished the U/21 team well in its forthcoming clash with Kilkenny next Sunday. Mr. Tierney joined in the well wishes and mentioned John Moylan, a Council employee, who is a selector on the minor team.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 12/7/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Regan seconded by Commr. Curley.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Carparks: In reply to Commr. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that one option had failed but that two further options are being investigated. Mr. Tierney also stated that the result of the last survey on the use of the existing carparks are not yet complete, he hoped to have further information for the next meeting.

Bus Shelter in St. Laurencesfields: Mr. Tierney informed Commr. Loughnane that it will probably be next year before plans are prepared for this area.

Housing: In reply to Commr. Regan, Mr. Tierney stated that there will be no more houses built in St. Laurencesfields. In reply to Commr. Loughnane, Mr. Tierney stated that with regard to funding, he does not anticipate any difficulty with funding but that there could be difficulty with getting people to carry out the work.

Appeal for Funding: Letters from the following groups seeking financial assistance were read to the meeting - Loughrea History Project for equipping their office; The Edward Martyn Weekend towards the cost of their weekend; and Loughrea Chamber of Commerce towards the cost of preparing an Audio Tour of St. Brendan's Cathedral and the promotion of a translated walking tour of the town. Mr. Tierney suggested that these be deferred to the next meeting when perhaps he might be in a better position to suggest a figure.

Training for Elected Members: The IPA informed the meeting that it is arranging courses for newly elected members at a cost of #100.00 per participant. The course is scheduled for Fri/Sat. 5-6 November. It was agreed to send a copy of the IPA letter to the 4 new members.

Revision of Remuneration: On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke, seconded by Commr. Curley, a 2% increase in accordance with Circular Letter EL 9/99 was approved for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners.

People of the Year Awards: The Board was invited to submit names of people they consider worthy of nomination for People of the Year Awards. It was agreed that members could submit names to the Town Clerk.

Loughrea Heritage Group: On the proposition of Commr. Regan seconded by Commr. Burke, An Cathaoirleach, Commr. Gunter-Nix, was appointed as the Commissioners representative on the Loughrea Heritage Group.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin.

"I propose that the T.C.s pursue the ideal of the Town Hall being restored to its former glory, it being one of the most impressive buildings in the town. That the T.C. support the concept of the upstairs being utilised for civic and social functions and the downstairs theatre/cinema be restored so that Loughrea may see a revival of entertainment both cinematic and theatrical."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes. Commr. Cronin stated that she is withdrawing her motion on the Town Hall which she had listed for the July meeting. She agreed in principle with the Co. Council purchasing the Town Hall but she was amazed with the plans that were drawn up, which she described as "butchering" the premises. Mr. Tierney stated that it is not the Council's intention to butcher the premises but to restore it as a civic centre. He also pointed out that it is not the function of the Council to fund a Theatre/Cinema, he needs to know what the Commissioners want to do. Mr. Tierney stated that he is meeting the Directors of the Town Hall on the 23rd after which he will report back to the next meeting. On the suggestion of An Cathaoirleach it was agreed to defer further discussing until the next meeting.

b) "That, as a matter of urgency, speed ramps be placed on the road of Boreencom having as a priority the safety and well being of the many young families residing there. This is imperative because of the traffic increase due to congestion on Bride Street." This motion was seconded by Commr. Curley and passed unanimously.

c) "That the junction of Caheronaun Estate/Caheronaun Road be examined with a view to improvement immediately for very obvious reasons" Mr. Diskin explained that when future planning applications are being considered, planning conditions will provide for these improvements.

Motions submitted by Commr. Pat Hynes:

a) "That ramps be put in place at Fahy Gardens to slow traffic and prevent accidents."

b) "That Galway County Council lay footpaths in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery to facilitate public access to graves." Both of the above motion were seconded by Commr. Curley and passed.

c) "That tests be carried out to water in Loughrea lake to alleviate public concern regarding health hazards." Commr. Hynes stated that he was approached by a mother whose children had broken out in a rash after a visit to Loughrea lake. Commrs. Cronin and G. Burke stated that they were aware of similar cases. The Town Clerk stated that the lady in question had written to him, he had forwarded this letter to the Co. Council. The Town Clerk added that tests are carried out on a regular basis in this area. Mr. Diskin stated that the Council would be anxious to find out the results of any tests carried out on these children.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that arising from the recent statement by the Minister, he had written to the Department to see if any extra money is available for the Loughrea Pool.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The Daniels family, Bride Street, on the death of Michael (Brandy).
2. The Powell Family, Bride Street on the death of Dr. Stan Powell.
3. The Forde Family, Moyleen, on the death of Brendan Forde.
4. The Daly Family, Mt. Carmel Crescent on the death of Albert.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of October, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/10/99.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes and James Regan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion.

The meeting commenced with Commr. Orla Burke reading the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11/10/98. The minutes were read and approved. The Assistant County Manager, Mr. John Tierney, presented the estimates of expenses for the year 2000-2001. He stated that there is a decrease in expenditure and mainly due to the fact that elections are not due in the coming year while there is a slight increase due to rising interest rates. The estimates as presented by the Assistant County Manager proposed a rate of 12.1% in the 2nd quarter in 1999, a decrease of 12%.

Commr. Hynes referred to the need for additional staff to meet the increased work load. An Cathaoirleach pointed out that the matters raised by Commr. Hynes are really matters for the County Council and she suggested that Commr. Hynes discuss same with that body. She complimented the Assistant County Manager and the Town Clerk on the efficient manner in which they look after the finances of the Board.

The proposition of Commr. Gabriel Burke, seconded by Commr. Regan, the following proposals were unanimously passed:

1. That the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioner for the Financial Year ending on the 31st December 2000, as set forth at A, B, & C on the Form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.
2. That the Demand be made on Galway Co. Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of #35,695.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31st December 2000 and that the Form of Demand be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of November, 1999.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/10/99.

Cathaoirleach: Comm. Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on the 13/9/99, were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley, seconded by Commr. Regan.

Carpark Survey: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the position regarding day long parking in the carparks has deteriorated since the last survey, the number of vehicles having increased from 33 to 63. Two locations are still being examined but it is problematic to locate a secure site convenient to town.

Funding: On the proposition of Commr. Kelly-Stewart, seconded by Commr. Curley, it was agreed to give #200.00 to each of the following groups, Loughrea History Project; The Edward Martyn Society and the Chamber of Commerce towards the cost of providing an audio tour of St. Brendans Cathedral subject to the above groups proving that their projects ran at a loss.

Swimming Pool: Commr. Hynes expressed his disappointment at the Minister's refusal to provide funding for the Loughrea Swimming Pool project. Commr. Burke stated that as Chairman of the Swimming Pool Committee, in 1993, he was given to understand by public officials that if the local contribution was provided, government funding would be forthcoming. He is now very disappointed to learn that funding will not be available until 2003. Mr. Tierney stated that he had received correspondence this week from the Department seeking clarification on certain points and he will be in touch with the Department to see exactly what information the Department requires from the County Council. On the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Cronin it was agreed to seek a meeting with Minister McDaid. Commr. Loughnane agreed to try to arrange this meeting.

Loughrea By-Pass: A letter from NRA to Minister Noel Treacy setting out the present position with the Loughrea By-Pass road and the procedures to be followed was read to the meeting.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin:-

1. "That at the Gort side of the Children's Playground a sign be erected stating - "PLEASE REDUCE SPEED" and also that Speed Ramps be considered at the playground."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Curley.

Mr. Diskin stated that money is provided in the current year to erect signs on the Gort road, it is not legal to provide ramps on national routes. Commr. Hynes suggested that parking signs should be erected informing people of the existence of a carpark on the west side of the tennis court.

It was agreed to wait and see what effect the proposed signs will have.

2. "The Town Commissioners seek a meeting with the Directors of the Town Hall with a view to discussing the future of the Hall with a particular emphasis on presenting a scheme which will serve the majority of the community namely; multi-functional rooms; Cinema; Theatre etc. as already outlined in a previous motion."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Commr. Cronin stated that the hall was originally acquired as a place for entertainment and the silent majority want the hall to return to its former standing. Mr. Tierney stated that he had no formal meeting with the Directors of the Town Hall. He had intended to write to the Directors to set out the Council's proposal but before doing so he wished to know what the Commissioners position is with regard to the original proposal. He stressed that it is not financially possible for the Commissioners to take over the Town Hall themselves. It was agreed to take a vote on the County Council original proposal. The Council's original proposal was to provide accommodation for (a) A New Area Office; (b) Accommodation for the Town Commissioners; and (c) A One Stop Shop for State Agencies. It also allowed the Council to lease part of the building to the Loughrea Heritage & Development Co. to accommodate (a) A Craft Workshop Area; (b) Information/Tourist Area and (c) Exhibition Area.

On a vote the Commissioners decided by 7 votes to 2 that they did not wish to participate on the basis of the Council's original proposal.

Comms. Gunter-Nix and Loughnane voting for the Council's original proposal. Comms. Cronin, Kelly-Stewart, Orla Burke, Gabriel Burke, Hynes and Regan, ^{Curley} voting against the proposal.

Commr. Cronin stated that she is meeting a interested group and she believed that she could raise the necessary funding. It was decided not to seek a meeting with the Directors of the Town Hall for the present.

3. "That the State of the Caheronaun Road be examined immediately including exit point onto Bride Street."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke.

Commr. Cronin stated that she intends to take the Town Engineer for a ride over this road in the coming weeks.

A.M.A.I. An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she had attended the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. in place of Commr. Regan and she distributed a copy of her synopsis of the meeting to the members. She also stated that she had received a copy of the minutes of the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. held in 1949. Loughrea Town Commissioners were represented by the late Michael Carty and by J.B. Donohoe. She had received a Commemorative Pin for Mr. Donohoe who still acts as press representative at our meeting. An Cathaoirleach made the presentation amid applause. In reply to Commr. Cronin, Commr. Loughnane stated that he had attended the meeting on the first day but as his son was being conferred with a degree, he could not be present on the other days. Commr. Cronin felt that under the circumstances Commr. Loughnane should have made the Board aware of his difficulty and enabled it to appoint a replacement for Commr. Loughnane. The Town Clerk stated that he understands that the question of a replacement is a matter for the individual delegate but that he will seek clarification on this matter.

Meeting with Garda Superintendent: The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Supt. Martin Lally, Garda Barracks, Loughrea had indicated that he is

prepared to meet the Commissioners to discuss public order matters in the town. It was agreed that the Commissioners should meet and arrange an agenda for discussion.

Votes of sympathy: The sympathy was extended to the relatives of the following who died recently:-

1. The relatives of Fr. Raymond Clasby ODC, formerly of Bride Street.
2. The Dervan family, Lakeside Park on the death of Tom Joe.
3. The Cusack family, Cloonoo on the death of Patch.
4. The Healy family, Cregg, Craughwell on the death of John.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of November, 1999.

Mary Gunter Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/11/99.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. County Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Vote of Sympathy: Before the business of the meeting was discussed a vote was sympathy was passed to Mr. Declan Nelson, Asst. Co. Manager, on the death of his mother on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Minutes: The minutes of the Estimates Meeting held on the 11/10/99 were adopted and signed as correct. Proposed by Commr. G. Burke, seconded by Commr. Regan.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 11/10/99 were adopted and signed as correct. Proposed by Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Regan.

Community and Enterprise Board: Mr. Frank Dawson, Director of Community and Enterprise for Galway County addressed the meeting. Mr. Dawson distributed literature and outlined the ideals, objectives and proposed formation of the new Board. Mr. Dawson explained that the primary function of the County Development Board will be two fold - preparing a County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development and ensuring its implementation. Mr. Dawson invited the members to seek clarification on any matters they wished and stated that he can be contacted through Galway County Council.

Galway Youth Federation: Ms. Bernie Smyth, Helen Burke and Bridget McGuane of the Galway Youth Federation addressed the meeting and gave an account of their achievements to date. They made the point that due to uncertainty of funding a difficulty exists with regard to the future of the Loughrea office. The members of the deputation were assured of the support of the Board members and it was agreed on the proposition of Commr. Cronin, seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart that the Board members would lobby Minister W. O'Dea for financial support.

Loughrea Amenity Group: Sinead Murray and Marie Cronin from Loughrea Amenity Dev. Group informed the meeting that they had undertaken a survey to establish what way the people of the town would like to see the Town Hall developed. A random door to door survey of the town was carried out and this survey indicated that 63.8% of those surveyed opted for a cinema. Marie Cronin stated that the survey covered about 75% of the town. Arising from the survey Ms. Cronin wondered if the Commissioners might take the refurbishment of the hall in hand. The two ladies thanked the meeting for receiving them and left the meeting.

Delegate to Municipal Authorities: The meeting was informed by the Secretary of the A.M.A.I. in his letter of the 22/10/99 that the appointment of delegates and substitutes is a matter for the Local

Authority. It was agreed that the appointment of substitutes will be addressed at a future meeting. It was agreed on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Regan that the subscription of #265.00 for the year 2000 be paid.

Town Hall: Loughrea Heritage & Development Co. Ltd. informed the meeting in writing, that they have been forced because of the recent change of mind by the Commissioners, to abandon their plans for the development of the Town Hall, this decision was taken with regret and sadness. A letter from the Loughrea Environmental Group was also read to the meeting. This letter expressed surprise that the Town Commissioners rejected the Co. Council's proposal for the development of the Town Hall and wondered if the Commissioners have alternative proposals to present to the Directors of the Town Hall.

Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that on behalf of the County Council he had written to the Town Hall Directors informing them that the Town Commissioners did not wish to participate in the proposed plan. The following motion submitted by Commr. Cronin was also discussed:-

"I propose that this Board request a meeting with the Directors of the Town Hall with a view to discussing the future of same building." This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes and passed unanimously.

Motions submitted by Commr. Cronin:

b) "I propose that this Body urge the County Council to actively seek site/sites in order to build new Council Offices as what has existed to date is grossly inadequate."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart and passed unanimously. Mr. Tierney stated that new office accommodation is very high on the Co. agenda. Commr. Loughnane remarked that it was quite ingenious of Commr. Cronin to submit such a motion having opposed the plan to refurbish the Town Hall.

c) "I propose that the condition of the Caheronaun Road be addressed immediately in the interest of safety and prevention of costly damage to motor vehicles."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Loughnane. Mr. Diskin stated that he had had discussions with the contractors and he hoped to see improvements to the road this week.

December Meeting: An Cathaoirleach reminded the members that traditionally the December meeting is short in order to facilitate the Christmas party. An Cathaoirleach and Commrs. Anna Cronin & Orle Burke undertook to look after the party arrangements.

Millennium Calander: An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the friends of Loughrea Heritage Society have issued a Millennium Calendar costing #10.00, which would make an ideal Christmas gift.

Employment Mediation Service: Commr. Kelly-Stewart stated that Loughrea is in danger of losing, due to lack of funding, its Employment Mediation Service. Galway Rural Development are meeting An Tanaiste, Mary Harney next week to press the issue and are seeking the support of the Commissioners. The Commissioners were unanimous in their support of GRM.

Mount Pleasant Burial Ground: Commr. Regan asked Mr. Diskin if he would investigate the possibility of providing a rail at the steps in Mount Pleasant B.G. to assist people in getting to the graves. Commr. Loughnane asked if it is possible to have the parking area outside the burial ground tarred.

Walks: Commr. Cronin asked if there is any further news with regard to providing new gates at The Walks. Mr. Diskin stated that these gates are quite expensive and money has not been provided for same. They might qualify under a Urban Renewal or FAS Scheme next year.

Congratulations: Commr. Regan congratulated Mr. Diskin and his staff on the improvements which were carried out at Barrack Street and on the time-scale in which the work was carried out.

Parking: Commr. Burke referred to the traffic congestion on Main Street and stated that the buses are adding to the problem by not pulling into the bus bays that are provided. Mr. Diskin stated that he will discuss the problem with the Traffic Warden.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 13th day of December, 1999.

Mary Gunter Wix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/12/99.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane and James Regan.

Apology: Comm. Orla Burke.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, John Tierney, Asst. County Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, An Cathaoirleach welcome Mr. O'Donoghue to the meeting and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of Loughrea. She also welcomed former members, Perlle McNally-Fullard, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Joseph Greene and Oliver Barrett and thanked them and all previous members of the Board for giving their time to serve the community.

Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8/11/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Town Hall: Arising from the minutes Commr. Gabriel Burke stated that the original plan drawn up for the Town Hall had provided for a a multi-functional room which covered everything that was requested and he wondered why it was changed. Commrs. Cronin, Hynes, Kelly-Stewart and Regan agreed with Commr. Burke. Mr. Tierney stated that there were three sketches drawn up but no final plan. The original sketch was taken out because of the cost involved, the elements that would go into the building were clearly pointed out at previous meetings. Commr. Cronin stated that the Commissioners had attended a meeting with the Heritage Group and it was stated at that meeting that the plan, which did not provide for a cinema etc. would not be changed. Commr. Cronin also referred to the Heritage letter which had appeared in the Connacht Tribune, this letter she claimed differed from the letter read out at the Commissioner's meeting. Commr. Cronin also stated that other proposals will be coming forward for the Town Hall. Commr. Loughnane pointed out that the Commissioners had rejected the proposed plan and the matter is now finished.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was read to the meeting.

1. Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: A letter from Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology & Commerce stated that Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment, had approved #5.2million for improvements to Loughrea Sewerage Scheme and that Coffey Construction had got the contract. Mr. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that the contract is to be signed this week. The meeting welcomed this news.

2. Loughrea Athletic Club. Minister Treacy informed the meeting that Loughrea Athletic Club has been allocated a Millennium Grant of #2,000.00. This news was also welcomed and on the proposition of Commr. Cronin, seconded by Comm. Curley, the Athletic Club was congratulated on its very successful staging of the road race last October. Commr. Loughnane referred to the success of this race and felt that it should become an annual event.

An Cathaoirleach pointed out that BUPA has agreed to sponsor this race for three years and she felt that this is very positive.

3. Loughrea Youth Club: Mr. Willie O'Dea acknowledge receipt of the Board's representation requesting funding for the Loughrea Youth Development Project. An Cathaoirleach stated that she was at a Youth Club Function in Ballinasloe recently which impressed her immensely.

4. A.M.A.I. A preliminary notice of a spring seminar to be held in the Welcome Inn, Castlebar on 11th & 12th February was read to the meeting.

5. Loughrea Town Hall Ltd. The Directors of Loughrea Town Hall Ltd. in their letter of the 9/12/99 stated that they are considering various options open to them in relation to the hall. The Directors also stated that they will be delighted to meet the Commissioners in the future when there are funded proposals to consider but to date there is only one funded proposal which the Town Commissioners have already rejected.

Loughrea Chamber of Commerce: A letter from Loughrea Chamber of Commerce relating to the Town Commissioners decision to reject the plan for refurbishing Loughrea Town Hall was read. The Chamber expressed its disappointment with the Town Commissioners decision to reject the plan and asked if the Commissioners have alternative plans with funding for the hall. Commr. Cronin remarked that the letter echoed the Environmental Group's letter. She went on to say that the Chamber had done well on the people of Loughrea, she pointed out that there are other things in life besides money and she considered the letter rather mean.

St. Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society: A letter from St. Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society seeking a contribution towards the cost of it's recent production of "Carousel" was read. On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Cronin it was agreed to make a contribution of #100.00 out of Year 2000 funding. The Society was congratulated on an outstanding production. Commr. Kelly-Stewart a leading member of the Society thanked the Board for its contribution and good wishes and stated that there was over 100 people involved in the production.

A.M.A.I. Substitute Delegates: The meeting agreed to appoint two substitute delegates to the A.M.A.I. Commr. Cronin was proposed by Commr. Kelly-Stewart, seconded by Commr. Curley. Commr. Gunter-Nix was proposed by Commr. Loughnane, seconded by Commr. Burke.

Galway County Development Board: Galway County Council informed the meeting that arrangements are now being made for the establishment of the County Development Board and that it is necessary to nominate one member to represent Ballinasloe UDC, Tuam & Loughrea Town Commissioners. On the suggestion of Commr. Loughnane it was suggested that a member from each Board should be appointed to serve a specific period. Mr. Tierney stated that he would bring this back to the other Boards to see if this suggestion is acceptable.

Past Members: Commr. Hynes stated that as we are now approaching the end of the Millennium the past members should not be forgotten. On the suggestion of Commr. Loughnane it was agreed to put this on the agenda for next month.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/12/99.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane and James Regan.

Apology: Comm. Orla Burke.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, John Tierney, Asst. County Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, An Cathaoirleach welcome Mr. O'Donoghue to the meeting and thanked him for his efforts on behalf of Loughrea. She also welcomed former members, Perlle McNally-Fullard, Brendan Donnellan, Norman Morgan, Joseph Greene and Oliver Barrett and thanked them and all previous members of the Board for giving their time to serve the community.

Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 8/11/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

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An Cathaoirleach pointed out that BUPA has agreed to sponsor this race for three years and she felt that this is very positive.

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Past Members: Commr. Hynes stated that as we are now approaching the end of the Millennium the past members should not be forgotten. On the suggestion of Commr. Loughnane it was agreed to put this on the agenda for next month.

Swimming Pool: In reply to Commr. Curley, Commr. Loughnane stated that he had no further news with regard to the proposed request for Minister McDaid to meet a deputation relating to Loughrea Swimming Pool.

Meeting with Supt. Lally: Commr. Gabriel Burke referred to the meeting that had taken place with Supt. Lally regarding rowdyism in Loughrea. Commr. Burke stated that 4 Commissioners had turned up at the meeting and they had a very open and frank discussion. Supt. Lally stated that his door is open for discussion at any time and in his opinion Loughrea is one of the better towns. Commr. Burke stated that he was very happy with the meeting and he felt that an improvement is visible in the town already.

The Walks: Commr. Cronin requested litter bins for the Walks and she suggested a type that would not take large litter bags.

Congratulations: An Cathaoirleach stated that she wished to congratulate two groups:

1. The local group who had put on an Art Exhibition recently in Kinsellas.
2. Loughrea Environmental Group who had received two prizes at the recent County Council presentations.

Flooding: Commr. Hynes referred to flooding which is taking place on the eastern end of Mount Carmel Crescent and he asked Mr. Diskin to try to solve this problem.

Vote of Sympathy: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes, the sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the late Mrs. Martha Kelly, Ballyancurragh, Kilchreest, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 18 day of January, 2000.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/1/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Orla Burke, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, James Regan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

An Cathaoirleach on opening the meeting welcomed everyone and wished them well for the New Millennium.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 13/12/99 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke.

Loughrea History Project: A letter from Loughrea History Project, thanking the Board for its financial support was read to the meeting.

A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar: It was decided not to send a delegate to this seminar which will take place in Castlebar on 11th & 12th Feb., 2000, as Commr. Loughnane is attending as a County Council delegate and it is hoped that he will report back to the Board.

Remembrance of Former Members: An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she had discussed the possibility of having a mass said for deceased members with Fr. Geraghty. Commr. Hynes agreed with remembering the deceased members but added that it would be nice to acknowledge former members who are still alive. Comm. Kelly-Stewart referred to the Millennium Mass which was held on New Year's Eve and suggested that it might become an annual event. An Cathaoirleach undertook to discuss this suggestion with Fr. Geraghty.

Delegate on Galway County Development Board: Two names were put forward to represent the Board on the Galway County Development Board - Commr. Gabriel Burke was proposed by Commr. Loughnane and seconded by Commr. Regan. Commr. Pat Hynes was proposed by Commr. Kelly-Stewart and seconded by Commr. Curley.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For Commr. Burke: Commrs. Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Matt Loughnane, James Regan and Mary Gunter-Nix. 5 No.

For Commr. Hynes: Commrs. Pat Hynes, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Anna Cronin and James Curley. 4 No.

Commr. Burke was declared elected.

An Cathaoirleach stated that Loughrea should also seek representation on the County Development Board for the full term of its existence.

Invitation: On the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke it was decided to invite the Regional Manager of the I.D.A. to attend a meeting of the Board.

Town Hall: Motion submitted by Commrs. Gabriel Burke and James Regan:

"We propose that Loughrea Town Commissioners accept the plan prepared by the National Building Agency Ltd., for Loughrea Town Hall."

Arising from the above motion the proposed development of Loughrea Town Hall was once again discussed at length. On the suggestion of Commr. Loughnane it was agreed that the members will present at the March meeting of the Board, funded/costed proposals for the development of the Town Hall.

Flooding: Commr. Gabriel Burke stated that he wished to compliment the Area Engineer and local council workers who had worked over the Christmas period to relieve flooding in the area. Comm. Cronin stated she would like to include the E.S.B. and Eircom workers also. Mr. Diskin stated that he wished to acknowledge and thank the Callanan family for allowing the flood at Srah to be pumped into their land.

Path at Barrack Street: Commr. Orla Burke referred to the new path at Barrack Street and pointed out that wheelchair users are having difficulty gaining access to same especially at Church Street junction. Mr. Diskin agreed to have a look at same.

Sisters of Mercy: On the proposition of Commr. Curley the Sisters of Mercy were welcomed to their new house on the grounds of St. Brendan's Home.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. Tom Kavanagh, County Secretary, on the death of his brother.
2. The Pendergast Family, Cahercrea on the death of Vincent.
3. The Kelleher Family, Knockanima on the death of Murt.
4. Vincent Fahy, Masonbrook, on the death of his wife.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 14th day of February, 2000. Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/2/2000.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Maura Kelly-Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, James Regan, Anna Cronin.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Orla Burke.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Vote of Sympathy: Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Commr. Matt Loughnane proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of the four young Irish soldiers who were killed today in a traffic accident in Beirut.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 10/1/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Burke, seconded by Commr. Curley.

Galway County Development Board: Commr. Burke informed the meeting that the first meeting of this Board was held on the 31/1/00. He together with the Ballinasloe and Tuam delegates attended this meeting and had made representation for full membership of the Board. Mr. Dawson stated that he had no control over the constitution of this Board, he did undertake to keep the members informed. It was agreed that Ballinasloe will have the representative for the first year, Tuam for the second, Loughrea for the third and then Ballinasloe again. Commr. Burke stated that it is proposed to hold a meeting in each of the towns each year.

A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar: Commr. Loughnane informed the meeting that he had attended this seminar as a Co. Council delegate. The clear message coming from this seminar was the modernisation of Local Government with emphasis on improved staffing, elimination of red tape, value for money, one stop shops and avoidance of duplication.

Flooding at Cuscarrick: Commr. Curley thanked Mr. Diskin for the work he had carried out at Cuscarrick to eliminate flooding there.

Meeting with I.D.A.: The Town Clerk was instructed to pursue the invitation which was issued to the Regional Manager of the I.D.A. to attend a meeting.

Path opposite The Cathedral: Commr. Orla Burke wrote to thank Mr. Diskin for having wheelchair access to the path at Church St. corner improved.

Thanks: Sr. Mary Casey in her letter dated 24/1/00, thanked the members for their good wishes conveyed to the Sisters of Mercy on their taking up residence in their new house at St. Brendan's Hospital.

Swimming Pool: Replies to Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister of State and to Commr. M. Loughnane who had sought meetings with Dr. James McDaid, T.D.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation regarding Loughrea's swimming pool were read to the meeting. On the suggestion of Commr. Loughnane it was agreed to request Minister Treacy to pursue this matter.

Loughrea Youth Development Project: Mr. W. O'Dea in his letter dated the 18/1/00 acknowledged representation made by the Board for funding for the Loughrea Youth Development Project. Minister O'Dea stated that information on funding for new projects should be available by the end of March and his Youth Affairs Section will be in contact as soon as a decision is made.

Annual Conference - Health Services in the New Millennium: An Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that this conference will take place in Westport on March 31st & April 1st. The meeting agreed to send a delegate to this conference. Two members were nominated - Commr. Gunter-Nix was proposed by Commr. Burke and seconded by Commr. Regan. Commr. Curley was proposed by Commr. Hynes and seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that while she would like to attend, she was withdrawing in favour of Commr. Curley.

Motion submitted by Commr. Curley:

"At the next meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that speed control - zebra crossing, be put in place at the lower end of The Hill in the town. (Coming from Ballinasloe)"

Commr. Hynes seconded this motion. The question of a pedestrian crossing at the Westbridge was also raised. Mr. Diskin stated that these are two separate issues, there is a certain warrant required for a pedestrian crossing and he will have this assessed.

The Town Clerk was instructed to forward both requests to Galway Co. Co.

Caheronaun/Bride St. Junction: Commr. Burke asked if something could be done with this junction to improve safety. Mr. Diskin stated that this is a difficult location to do anything with, he has given it a lot of thought and will have another look at it.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin:- As Commr. Cronin was unavoidably absent it was agreed to defer these motions to the next meeting.

Phone Kiosk: Commr. Regan stated that the location of the phone kiosk at the west end of the town was changed and he stated that a new public light is required at this location. Mr. Diskin stated that a light for this area is included in the proposals for the current year and he is waiting on a decision on these proposals.

Bypass Road: In reply to Commr. Regan, Commr. Loughnane stated that the completion of the bypass is scheduled for the year 2003 and he hoped that the NDA would get on with this proposal. Mr. Tierney stated that the County Council is working away on the documentation. Commr. Hynes referred to efforts being made to move the Galway/Dublin road nearer to Tuam and he also stated that the landowners in the Loughrea area are not dealt with yet.

Congratulations: Commr. Burke congratulated Cllr. Michael Regan and his committee on getting the Deflector TV system back.

Government Departments: Commr. Burke proposed that the Loughrea Town Commissioners actively campaign for a Government Department to transfer to Loughrea. It was agreed to contact the four local T.D.s. re same.

Parking: Commr. Kelly-Stewart referred to the fact that there is only one parking space provided for wheelchair people in each of the two car parks and she said that she had complaints from wheelchair users that this is not sufficient as other people are inclined to avail of these spaces. Mr. Diskin stated that he had discussed this problem with the Traffic Warden ~~problem~~ previously and that he will again take the matter up with him.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Commr. Hynes complimented the Chamber of Commerce on last year's parade and he hoped that the Town Commissioners are available to assist and take part in this year's parade.

Millennium Project: Commr. Hynes asked what had become of the idea of a project for the Millennium. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that a committee had been formed which had received very little support. This committee had two proposals for improvements at the Cathedral. An application was made to Galway Co. Council for grant aid but failed as only events qualified. A special mass had taken place on New Year's Eve which was quite successful.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 17th day of March, 2000.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 13/3/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, James Regan, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Industry: An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jim Murren, Regional Manager of the West Region of the I.D.A. and invited him to address the meeting. Mr. Murren assured the meeting that Loughrea ranks with the I.D.A. He stated that there is a change of policy and now 50% of all new jobs are directed to the BMW areas. He stated that proper infrastructure is essential to attract new industry. He felt that the proposed bypass road will be a major benefit to Loughrea. The I.D.A. has a 5 acre site in Loughrea at present.

The following points were raised by the members:

Commr. Curley stated that there are over 1000 unemployed in the Loughrea area and he felt that Loughrea should get priority.

Commr. Hynes stated that a 5 acre site is not sufficient and he felt that an advance factory should be provided.

Commr. Burke stated that the existing site is not suitable and he wondered how many industrialists had looked at Loughrea.

Commr. Loughnane stated that strings are being pulled within the I.D.A. The fact remains that nothing has come to Loughrea since Cigna. The decision to direct 50% of new jobs to the BMW areas came about due to other pressures outside the I.D.A. and the I.D.A. had not made a submission to the Planning Authority for an industrial park in Loughrea - Loughrea demands it fair share added Commr. Loughnane.

Commr. Cronin stated that she could sense frustration and anger and she felt that the Dublin errors are being repeated.

Commr. Regan posed the question - what are Loughrea's pluses and minuses. Mr. Murren in reply to the above points stated that the Government is not in the building game, waiting for the I.D.A. is not the right approach as towns can do a lot for themselves. Loughrea is in a good location quite close to Galway while town congestion is a minus.

An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Murren for attending and it was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 14/2/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Regan.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: A letter from Loughrea Chamber of Commerce inviting the Town Commissioners to be present on the reviewing stand for the St. Patrick's Day Parade was read to the meeting.

Millennium Project: Ms. Geraldine Bane, Chairperson of Baffle in her letter dated 18/2/00 informed the Board that the Baffle Group has decided to bury a "POETIC TIME CAPSULE" at the site of the old potato market where the county council has erected the old crane. This capsule will contain all

poems written over a 12 months period and Baffle would appreciate any assistance or endorsement that the Town Body could provide.

The Rosemary Nelson Campaign: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Burke the following resolution, submitted by the Rosemary Nelson Campaign was adopted.

"We are mindful of the fact that one year after her death, the full facts and circumstances surrounding the murder of Rosemary Nelson have not been fully investigated or made public by the relevant British authorities. We endorse the call made by her family for an independent, international inquiry into Rosemary Nelson's murder. We request that the Government of the Irish Republic urges the British Government to invoke the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act as it has recently done in the case of Bloody Sunday.

We further call for the police investigation into her murder to be conducted by a totally, independent team of investigators, as a guarantee of the objectivity of the investigation and the only way to be assured of the confidence and co-operation of the public".

Strategic Policy Committees: The meeting decided on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Regan to support the following resolution submitted by Ballyshannon Town Commissioners:

"That the Ballyshannon Town Commissioners call on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to amend the guidelines drawn up for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees, to allow for a substantial increase in the level of membership from Town Authorities."

By-Pass Road: Mr. Ulick Burke, T.D. submitted a letter which he had received from the N.R.A. setting out the current position with regard to the proposed by-pass road for Loughrea. This letter stated that a Compulsory Purchase Order and land acquisition maps are being prepared by Galway County Council.

Proposed Swimming Pool: A reply from Dr. McDaid, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation to a Dail question table by Mr. Ulick Burke, T.D., was read to the meeting. This letter stated that grant allocation for the year 2000 is already committed to pools in Ennis, Wicklow, Navan and Dundalk. There are 13 proposals at present with the Minister including Loughrea. Commr. G. Burke stated that they had a meeting with the Minister who had requested further information. This is being dealt with.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment and Local Government, in a letter to Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, stated that he is approving the provision of funding for work on the mechanical and electrical contract for Loughrea Sewerage Scheme.

Subsistence Allowances-Local Authorities Officers: Revised subsistence allowances for Local Authority Officers as set out in Circular Letter EL 2/00 E1 221/2A were approved on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Expenses of Members: Revised expenses of members as set out in Circular Letter LG 4/00 of the 6/3/00 were approved on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Cronin. This provided for an increase from

#600 to #604 for Town Commissioners with effect from 1/1/1999.

Decentralisation: Correspondence from Mr. Charlie McCreevy, T.D., Minister for Finance, to each of the 4 local T.D.s regarding representation which they had made to have a Government Department re-located to Loughrea was read to the meeting. Mr. Tierney stated that Tuam Town Commissioners also have this under consideration and they have agreed to set up a sub-committee to deal with the matter. The meeting agreed to adopt a similar policy for Loughrea. The following were appointed to act on same. Commr. Gunter-Nix, proposed by Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Regan. Commr. Cronin, proposed by Commr. Kelly-Stewart seconded by Commr. Curley. Commr. G. Burke, proposed by Commr. O. Burke, seconded by Commr. Loughnane.

Town Hall: Two proposals were presented for the development of the Town Hall. Commrs. Burke and Regan proposed that the Loughrea Town Hall would be in public use with a portion used as a multi-purpose room and the remainder to include Galway County Council, Loughrea Town Commissioners and Loughrea Heritage Group.

Commr. Cronin suggested that a theatre be incorporated into the building and with the use of slides indicated how other towns had successfully provided theatres with similar type buildings. She also stated that these towns availed of grants and indicated other means of funding.

Mr. Tierney stated that neither proposals were actually what were sought. Both the County Council and the Heritage Group have withdrawn from the project. Who will be the promoters of the scheme? What do the Town Hall Directors propose to do with the building? Who will provide the local funding? Mr. Tierney asked.

Commr. Loughnane proposed that the Co. Council be asked to investigate the proposals, this was seconded by Commr. Cronin

Mr. Tierney agreed to examine the proposals but gave no guarantees.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin:

a) "I propose that recent submissions regarding The Walks be examined and addressed."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Mr. Diskin stated that he will keep it in mind but it is a matter of availability of funds.

b) "That further information is sought regarding prevention of further erosion of the Crannogs."

The Town Clerk stated that this matter was raised previously and the reply received at that time (3/6/97) from the National Monuments Service was that crannogs benefit from high water levels.

c) "That the condition of the roads be discussed."

Commr. Hynes pointed out that #50,000 is provided for the Gort Road.

Mr. Diskin stated that improvement work will be carried out on Castle St., on Church St. and Galway Road this year. In reply to Commr. Cronin, Mr. Diskin stated that the Caheronaun Road will be improved out of planning contributions.

Commr. Cronin referred to a dip on the roadway at the entrance to Rus-en-Urbe housing estate. Mr. Diskin agreed to have another look at same. The question of graffiti on a wall at Athenry Road and The Walks was also raised. It was pointed out that these walls are not Council property.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 18th day of April, 2000, *Mary Gunter Nix* Cathaoirleach

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/4/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting held on the 13/3/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Curley.

Town Hall: Arising from the minutes, Mr. Tierney stated that he a meeting with the Directors of Loughrea Town Hall Ltd. today, they had put a proposal to the Council and he hopes to have an answer within the month, all avenues are still open and he will report back to the May meeting.

Decentralisation: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Committee is now formed to deal with this matter. The Committee consists of Bishop Kirby, Michael Bond, Frank Burke, Kevin Glynn, Jim Murren of the I.D.A., Ursula Mooney, Gerard McInerney, Commrs. Mary Nix, Anna Cronin & Gabriel Burke, Jim O'Donnell of Galway Co. Co. and himself. They had met last Friday at 8/30 a.m. and are meeting again in two weeks time at 8 a.m.

Swimming Pool: In reply to Commr. Cronin, Commr. G. Burke stated that he had supplied all the relevant information to the Minister and is awaiting a decision on same. Commr. Hynes stressed the need to keep the pressure on.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Commr. G. Burke congratulated the organisers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade which he said was the biggest and best held in Loughrea. He expressed his disappointment that it got no mention on Galway Bay Radio.

Members' Expenses: Commr. Hynes referred to the fact that it is proposed to provide salaried for County Councillors and he wondered if the A.M.A.I. had made any submission on behalf of Urban Councillors and Town Commissioners.

Visitors: The Town Clerk stated that a group from Nenagh and its sister town in France - Toonerre, are visiting Loughrea on Wednesday next and the Commissioners are invited to meet these people in O'Dea's Hotel at 6 p.m.

Loughrea Heritage & Development Company Ltd.: A letter dated 23/3/00 from the Loughrea Heritage & Dev. Co. Ltd., stating that it is interested in acquiring space in the Town Hall Development was read to the meeting.

This company stated that it would welcome a proposal that would:

- (a) Incorporate space for the Loughrea Heritage & Development Co.;
- (b) Be acceptable to the Town Hall Directors;
- (c) Be costed and financially viable;
- (d) Available for consideration within 6 months.

In view of Mr. Tierney's earlier statement re Town Hall, discussion on this letter was deferred.

Old Age Pensioners: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Cronin is was decided to support the following resolution submitted by Wexford Corporation:
"That this Council call on the Government to exclude all Old Age Pensioners who have reached the age of 70, from paying tax on their Pensions."

Industry: Commr. Hynes referred to a lack of a sufficient land bank in Loughrea. Commr. Loughnane referred to the proposed Loughrea Town Plan and stated that the Council has supported a proposal to zone an Industrial Park in Loughrea. He felt that the I.D.A. has a negative attitude towards Loughrea. He suggested that a committee be formed with the Chamber of Commerce to promote Loughrea. It was decided to contact the Chamber of Commerce with a view to forming same.

Fire Service: The meeting received a deputation from the Loughrea Fire Service consisting of Martin Ward, Station Officer, Martin McGhee and Sean Greally.

Before receiving the deputation An Cathaoirleach pointed out that as this is a Co. Council operational matter it must be held "In Committee". Mr. Ward informed the meeting that there are 12 members in the Loughrea Fire Service which has only one fire tender, 6 is the most that can travel on a tender, should a second call come in there is no appliance available. He made the point that Ballinasloe, Portumna and Clifden have second appliances and he felt that a second appliance is also needed in Loughrea, they have received approximately 43 calls already this year. Commr. Cronin complimented the Loughrea Fire Service for its dedication and the efficiency in which they carry out their work. After the deputation had left it was decided on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Curley to request the County Council to provide a second appliance in Loughrea.

Abstract of Accounts 1999 Year: Mr. Tierney presented the Abstract of Accounts for 1999. These were noted on the proposition of Commr. Cronin, seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Revision of Remuneration - 29th Pay Round Phase 4: An increase of 1%, in accordance with Circular Letter EL 5/00, was approved for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners. Proposed by Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin:

a. "I propose that Boreen Com become One Way; traffic entering at Bride Street and exiting onto Moore Street. This proposal is in the interest of safety for the number of families resident there. Also, the fact that there is a School Entrance. The erection of a sign drawing attention to the presence of school children is necessary."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Mr. Diskin stated that when the Loughrea Traffic & Parking Laws were being reviewed it was proposed to make Moore St. one way, due to submissions from the public, this proposal was withdrawn.

Commr. Cronin stated that she will talk to all the householders in Boreen Com and report back to the next meeting.

b. "I propose that the entrance to Rus In Urbe be examined and improved because of sharp incline."

This motion was withdrawn.

c. "I propose that a plan of action and time scale be devised regarding improvements in The Walks. Reference to be made to proposals submitted by Amenity Group."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Commr. Cronin stated that The Walks is in a sad state of repair and she felt that it is the duty of the local authority to maintain and improve this area and she stated that the Amenity Group proposals should be preached at the next meeting. Members expressed concern about the vandalism and under age drinking that takes place there. Mr. Diskin stated that he had inspected The Walks this evening and while litter was scattered about, two new litter bins provided there were empty. Both Commrs. O. Burke and Cronin stressed that the youth have no where else to go. Commr. Cronin felt that a discussion with the anglers would be beneficial. Commr. Regan stated that it was pointless doing anything until the blackguards who frequent The Walks are dealt with and he wondered if drinking in public could be banned. Mr. Tierney said that he would have to check this out. An Cathaoirleach referred to the excellent work being done by Galway Youth Federation who are now trying to form a youth club but are having difficulty in getting parents to help out. She also made the point that April is designated as a National Spring Clean month and she suggested that each of us should organise a clean up of their own area. Commr. Kelly-Stewart referred to the amount of litter on Cross Street and she asked that 2 litter bins be provided there.

Motions submitted by Commr. James Curley:

a. "At the next meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that the Galway Co. Council will pursue the vacant public house known as Mai Kelly's, Westbridge, Loughrea, which is currently for sale by Martin Keary, Auctioneer and that said be demolished and the drink licence be sold. Reason being to put a Mini Roundabout at the five road junction at the Westbridge which would also include a pedestrian crossing."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Mr. Diskin stated that he had already brought this to the attention of the County Engineer.

b. "I propose to ask Galway County Council to provide skips at Barrack St., Loughrea, for the purpose of disposing of large household goods as is done yearly"

Commr. Cronin seconded this motion.

Mr. Diskin agreed to provide this service again this year.

c. "I propose that the condition of the paths on the roads approaching Loughrea Town on (A) The Gort Road and (B) Athenry Road be investigated".

This motion was seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Mr. Diskin stated that some money is provided for these roads this year and he will try to have something done with the paths.

Amenity Grants: Commr. Hynes stated that there is a small area in the Fahy Garden area that needs improvements and he asked Mr. Diskin to have same inspected. Commr. Loughnane informed the meeting that Galway Co. Council has an Amenity Grant Scheme in operation which local communities can avail of.

Reception for Minor Hurlers: An Cathaoirleach stated that it was agreed to honour the local members of the Galway Minor, Johnny O'Loughlin and Brian Mahoney and she now proposed to arrange this. The meeting agreed to this

and An Cathaoirleach was instructed to select a suitable memento.

Land Fill Sites: Commr. Hynes stated he had received numerous calls opposing the location of land fill sites in the general area and he wished to hilite this fact. Commr. Loughnane stated that it is hard to ascertain the facts with regard to the best way to deal with the problem of refuse, the Co. Council had recently taken a decision to defer taking land tests pending further information.

Congratulations: Commr. G. Burke congratulated Miss Olive Loughnane, daughter of Commr. Loughnane, on qualifying for the Olympic Games and wished her every success. Commr. Loughnane thanked the members for their good wishes and added that Olive's training is progressing nicely. Commr. Burke also congratulated Commr. Loughnane and his wife on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Public Lighting: Commr. O. Burke asked if an additional public light could be provided at the eastern end of Cross Street. Mr. Diskin stated that the allocation for the year 2000 is spoken for but perhaps it could be included in the 2001 proposals. Commr. Loughnane stated that there is a proposal to provide an allocation for each Councillor for the purpose of providing lights in future years. Commr. G. Burke congratulated Mr. Diskin on the improvements he had implemented with regard to the public lighting in the town, especially at Barrack Street.

Vote of Sympathy: Commr. Hynes proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Paddy Smith, Papel Knight, of Dunkellin Street. The late Mr Smith was a great character who was involved with many organisations in the town, added Commr. Hynes.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of May, 2000.

Mary Gunter-Nix
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/5/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, James Regan and Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 10/4/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Regan.

Property at Westbridge: In reply to Commr. Curley, the Town Clerk stated that the Co. Council had acknowledged representation made by the Town Commissioners regarding the purchase of the property known as Mai Kelly's at Westbridge, Loughrea. Mr. Tierney stated that the Co. Council were in fact investigation this property prior to the Commissioners representation.

Amenity Grants: Mr. Diskin informed Commr. Hynes that if the residents of Fahy Gardens submit an application for an amenity grant he will assist them in any way he can.

Town Hall: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that discussions are ongoing with the Directors of Loughrea Town Hall Ltd.

Industry: The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to the Chamber of Commerce with regard to the formation of a sub-committee to promote industry in Loughrea.

Decentralisation: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the submission on behalf of Loughrea on Government Decentralisation is now complete and he wished to record his thanks to the Committee for their contribution namely Bishop John Kirby, Mary Gunter-Nix, Anna Cronin, Gabriel Burke all Loughrea Town Commissioners, Jim Murren, Regional Manager, IDA, Gerard McInerney, Loughrea Heritage, Kevin Glynn and Ursula Mooney, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce, Michael Bond, St. Brigids Voc. School, Frank Burke, St. Brendan's N.S., and James O'Donnell, Planning section, Galway Co. Council. An Cathaoirleach complimented Mr. Tierney on the professionalism of his work.

Fire Service: Commr. Loughnane asked that the question of the provision of a second fire tender in Loughrea be on the agenda for the next meeting. An Cathaoirleach asked if the two Co. Councillors on the Board might use their influence with the Council in the meantime.

Bohercom: Commr. Cronin stated that after having spoken to the resident of Bohercom regarding having it made oneway, they are concerned that this would increase the speed of the traffic and they now thought that speed ramps might be a better solution. She also complained about the condition of the carriageway and footpaths. Mr. Diskin pointed out that the footpath in this area is private and he had referred same to the planning section on

a previous occasion. Mr. Diskin undertook to get the current position with regard to the footpath.

A.M.A.I. The meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities will be held in Clonakilty from September 12th to 14th. Two motions will be allowed per Local Authority which must be submitted on separate sheets prior to the 16th June.

Employment Mediation Service: The meeting was advised by the Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment that a new Employment Service Advisory Committee is being set up to deal with this matter. The Town Clerk was instructed to enquire as to when this new service will commence.

Annual Meeting: On the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Cronin it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting on the 12th of June, prior to the monthly meeting.

Motion submitted by Commr. Gabriel Burke:-

"I will propose that Galway County Council upgrade the road known as the Ballygasty Road."

This was seconded by Commr. Curley.

Mr. Diskin stated that this is a narrow road which will be effected by the bypass and could be served by a slip road into Loughrea when the bypass comes. Mr. Diskin undertook to have the full facts for the next meeting.

Road Works: Commr. Loughnae complimented Mr. Diskin on the improvement carried out on the Racecourse road and he asked if something similar could be done with the Coursing Field road. Mr. Diskin stated that the Coursing Field road does not lend itself to similar type improvements but he will have another look at it.

Traffic Delays: Commr. Burke referred to the traffic delays through the town on the two Bank Holiday week-ends and he felt that this work should not have gone ahead over these week-ends. Mr. Diskin made the point that this work which necessitated the laying of telephone cables through the town is being done by contract and is not the responsibility of the Co. Council.

Both Mr. Tierney and Mr. Diskin remarked on the excellent quality of the work being carried out.

Bypass: In reply to Commr. Hynes, Mr. Tierney stated that the C.P.O. documents are being prepared by the Council and he is hopeful that the work will commence next year.

Parking: Commr. Orla Burke asked if the double yellow line could be extended on the south side of Bride Street. Mr. Diskin stated that initially this was proposed but after representation it was deleted from the Loughrea parking laws.

On the proposition of Commr. Orla Burke, seconded by Commr. G. Burke it was decided to request the County Council to continue the double yellow lines from their present position eastwards to the gate of Mr. J.B. Donohoe's house.

Commr. Kelly-Stewart asked when is it intended to have the parking lines provided opposite the Cathedral in Barrack St. Mr. Diskin stated that he

is waiting on the contractors to do this work. Commr. Kelly-Stewart proposed that a disabled persons parking space be provided near the pedestrian crossing at Main St., this was seconded by Commr. Cronin.

The Walks: Mr. Diskin, with the aid of photographs, outline improvements that are desirable at The Walks. The work included the replacement of the gates and pillars and repair/replace the bridges of which there are 16. The total estimated cost involved is #81,650.00 but there is no budget for this work in the current year. The meeting felt that this work could be carried out over a number of years and agreed that the gates should get priority. Mr. Tierney stated that the Urban Renewal Schemes are not finalised for this year and perhaps when these are on stream The Walks could be looked at. Commr. Cronin thanked and complimented Mr. Diskin on his presentation.

Vote of Congratulations: The following votes of congratulations were passed

1. Fr. Finian Monahan, O.D.C. on the Golden Jubilee of his ordination.
2. Fr. Charles Newell, O.D.C. on the Golden Jubilee of his ordination.
3. St. Brigids Voc. School on winning the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.
4. Loughrea Soccer Club on gaining Division One status.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

1. The McNamee Family, Moore St. on the death of their father Christy.
2. Tom Gately, Moore St. on the death of his mother Polly.
3. The O'Loughlin family, Liam Mellows Tce., on the death of their mother.
4. Christy Kelly, Athenry Road on the death of his wife.
5. The Cunningham family, Gorteenapheebra, on the death of their sister.
6. The Forde family, Raheen, on the death of their father Paddy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of June, 2000

James Regan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2000**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix
Comm. James Regan

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-
Stewart, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes
and Matt Loughnane

Officials: John Tierney, Assistant County Manager, John
Diskin, Area Engineer & Ann Power, A/Town
Clerk

Meeting opened with prayers.

Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix, outgoing Cathaoirleach thanked the Members for their co-operation during the year. She also praised and thanked the Officials and County Council work-force for their help.

Election of Cathaoirleach:

Two members were proposed for this position.

Comm. James Regan proposed by Comm. Gabriel Burke, seconded by Comm. Orla Burke.

Comm. Anna Cronin proposed by Comm. James Curley and seconded by Comm. Pat Hynes.

A vote was taken and resulted as follows:-

For Comm. Regan: Comms. Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Mary Gunter-Nix, Matt Loughnane and James Regan - 5 votes

For Comm. Cronin: Comms. Anna Cronin, James Curley, Pat Hynes and Maura Kelly-Stewart - 4 votes.

Comm. James Regan was declared elected.

Comm. James Regan paid tribute to the outgoing Cathaoirleach and both Comm. James Regan and Comm. Anna Cronin thanked their proposers and seconders and the other Members who had voted for them.

Comms. Cronin, Curley, Hynes and Kelly-Stewart expressed their disappointment at the system of electing the Chairperson. They felt that the system was unfair and that the Chair should be shared with the minority group on the Board.

Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix explained that before the Annual Meeting in 1999 a meeting had been set up to discuss the sharing of the posts of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach but the meeting was called off by the opposition before it was due to be held.

Comms. Cronin and Kelly-Stewart said they were unaware of any such Meeting. Comms. Cronin, Curley, Hynes and Kelly-Stewart then left the Meeting in protest.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach:

Comm. Matt Loughnane was proposed by Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix and seconded by Comm. Gabriel Burke.

As there was no other proposal for this position, Comm. Matt Loughnane was declared elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Mr. J. Tierney, Assistant County Manager congratulated both Comm. Regan and Comm. Loughnane on their election as Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach respectively.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of ~~June~~^{July}, 2000.


Cathaoirleach

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
LOUGHREA TOWN COMMISSIONERS HELD ON THE 12TH JUNE
2000**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Comm. James Regan

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Gabriel Burke, M. Gunter-Nix and Matt Loughnane

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Anne Power, A/Town Clerk

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting held on 8th May 2000 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Comm. Gabriel Burke, seconded by Comm. Orla Burke.

Arising from the Minutes, Mr. John Tierney apologised for the omission of an item from the Agenda, but said he would arrange for consideration at the next Meeting.

Road at Ballygasty: Comm. Gabriel Burke asked if there was any progress on the upgrading of Ballygasty Road which was brought up at the May Meeting.

Mr. Diskin explained that there was no proposals for improvements of this road under funding for the Loughrea By-pass. He explained that this is a County Road and the only way it could be improved is from Council's Non-National Roads Programme. He said that it is hoped to surface-dress the road this summer. He also informed the Members that although the Roads Programme has been prepared for next five years, that when the Plan is being reviewed by the Local Area Councillors next September, that this road could be included under the Restoration Programme for next year.

Decentralisation: Comm. Gabriel Burke asked if there was any update on the Decentralisation proposal.

Mr. J. Tierney stated that an acknowledgement had been received from the Department of Finance that the submission had been received and that it would receive every consideration. He said that it was hoped to have a decision at end of July.

The Walks: Comm. Loughnane asked if there was any update on the proposal for "The Walks".

Mr. Diskin replied that he had sought clarification as to the legal responsibility for maintenance of the Arches and he would report back when he received same.

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SPC's: The Meeting was informed that Galway County Council had formally adopted a Strategic Policy Committee Scheme. There was one seat available for a member of Loughrea Town Commission on the Housing Services SPC and the Council were looking for their nomination on or before 22nd June 2000.

Comm. Matt Loughnane asked if it would be possible to split the term. Comm. Mary Gunter-Nix was proposed for the first two year term by Comm. Matt Loughnane, seconded by Comm. Orla Burke. Comm. Gabriel Burke was proposed for the second two year term by Comm. Matt Loughnane, seconded by Comm. Orla Burke.

It was noted that Comm. Gunter-Nix would have to resign after two years to accommodate this proposal.

A.M.A.I. CONFERENCE: The Meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities will be held in Clonakilty from 12 to 14th September 2000. Two motions will be allowed per Local Authority which must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary before 16th June 2000. It was decided that no motions would be submitted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Industry: Comm. Matt Loughnane asked if there had been any further correspondence from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the promotion of industry in Loughrea. He said that the setting up of a joint committee was very important and he proposed that the Cathaoirleach make personal contact with the Chamber of Commerce regarding same. He said that there was money being made available in the BMW region for high tech. industry.

Mr. J. Tierney informed the meeting that Mr. O'Donoghue, County Manager had made formal contact with all agencies involved in industrial development and had put an arrangement in place to ensure ongoing exchange of information.

Ballydoogan/Kilrickle & District Heritage Group: The Meeting were informed of correspondence received from the Ballydoogan/Kilrickle & District Heritage Group enclosing a report on an Archaeological Survey that was carried out in the area which confirmed that the area is rich in Archaeological features.

Swimming Pool: Comm. Gabriel Burke asked if there was any update on provision of a swimming pool for Loughrea.

Mr. J. Tierney advised the Members that Loughrea is one of ten proposals for new pools. He said that of the £45m allocated for swimming pools that £30m would be spent on refurbishment and £15m on new pools over the next three years. He expected

correspondence from the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation before the end of June outlining their position on the Loughrea proposal.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of ~~June~~^{July}, 2000.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/7/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Orla Burke.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes Annual Meeting: The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 12/6/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke. Arising from the minutes of this meeting, Commr. Hynes stated that he was not invited to any informal meeting prior to the 1999 Annual Meeting and he was not informed of any proposals to rotate the Chair. Commr. Gabriel Burke stated that he had arranged a meeting with former Commissioner, Oliver Barrett, for the purpose of arranging the rotation of the Chair. Commr. Burke was to arrange for his party members to attend and he understood that Mr. Barrett would notify the opposition. Commr. Burke stated that this meeting was cancelled by the opposition and he felt that comments made about not sharing positions were unfair and unjust.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 12/6/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke.

Fire Service: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the Chief Fire Office, Mr. John Shaughnessy, will attend the September meeting of the Board.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Tierney stated that he had recently received correspondence from the Department asking if the project is still alive and seeking revised costings. Mr. Tierney had sent a copy of this correspondence to the local committee. Commr. Hynes expressed the hope that this project will proceed as quickly as possible.

Ballygasty Road: Commr. Burke thanked Mr. Diskin for the improvements which were carried out to the Ballygasty Road.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was read to the meeting -

Parking for Disabled: A letter from Mr. John M. Finn, Raheen, Kilchreest, thanking the Commissioners for having a disabled parking facility provided adjacent to the Bank of Ireland and Post Office. Mr. Finn requested the provision of similar facilities near the E.S.B. office and outside St. Brendan's Credit Union. Mr. Diskin agreed to investigate this request.

Decentralisation: A letter from Mr. Charlie McCreevy, TD, Minister for Finance to Mr. Noel Tracy, TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce, acknowledging Mr. Tracy's representation for the inclusion of Loughrea in the forthcoming decentralisation programme, was read to the meeting.

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 Commr. Gunter-Nix thanked and complimented Mr. Tierney and his committee for the work they put into compiling Loughrea's presentation.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin: Due to the unavoidable absence of Commr. Cronin, these motions were not put to the meeting.

Takeaways - Late Opening: Commr. Burke referred to the problems caused by takeaway food outlets remaining open late at night and he felt that if these premises should close at a certain time then that law should be enforced. Commr. Loughnane made the point that people congregate at these premises after discos and as a result taxis are prone to assemble in these locations. Commr. Loughnane wondered if this might not be better than having young people assemble in isolated areas at 3 a.m.

Pedestrian Lights: In reply to Commr. Curley, Mr. Diskin stated that the gardai have a key to the pedestrian lights at Main Street and they would at times turn these lights off to facilitate traffic movement. The County Council also has a key for the purpose of servicing these lights.

Local Government Bill: Correspondence from Cllr. A. Pyne, President of the A.M.A.I. re Local Government Bill was distributed at the meeting. This correspondence set out steps taken to date by the A.M.A.I. Comms. Burke and Hynes felt that the Commissioners should have more of an input into matters relating to Loughrea Town Plan. Commr. Loughnane thought that the Commissioners should be invited to the Area Council meeting when Loughrea Town Plan is being considered to assist himself and Commr. Hynes. Mr. Tierney pointed out that the County Council planning officer Mr. G. McCarthy had presented the Loughrea Draft Plan at a meeting of the Board, the plan then went on display, certain amendments were proposed and these will again be put on display before it goes back to the Council.

Loughrea Bypass: Commr. Cronin referred to the proposed Galway/Dublin dual carriageway and she felt that an Information Evening should be organised to form a consensus as to what is best for Loughrea. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that a Public Consultation session was held in the Temperance Hall for the full day on 30/6/00. The Consultants were available all day to deal with all enquiries, five corridors were suggested and the people are invited to suggest what they consider the most suitable route. Commr. Cronin felt that there was not enough notice given for this consultation. The Town Clerk stated that literature setting out the various proposals is available at the local council office.

Town Hall: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that he is meeting architects from the N.B.A. next Thursday at 7 p.m. in O'Dea's Hotel. 3 members of the Loughrea Heritage Group are also attending this meeting and the Commissioners are welcome to come along if they so wish. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for the Town Hall.

700 Anniversary: Commr. Loughnane stated that the Carmelite Fathers will celebrate the 700th Anniversary of their arrival in Loughrea this year and he felt that the occasion should be acknowledged if this is acceptable to the Abbey. The Town Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with the Prior.

Parking at Garrybreeda Road: Commr. Burke stated that parking on the Garrygreeda road is causing problems and he asked Mr. Diskin to look at same.

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Votes of Congratulations: The congratulations of the Board was extended to the following:

1. Loughrea U/14 Hurlers on their excellent performance in Feile na Gael, where they were most unlucky losers in the final. Proposed by Commr, Gunter-Nix.
2. Commr. Anna Cronin on her work in the promotion of the Edward Martyn Week-end. Proposed by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.
3. Loughrea Youth Theatre on its wonderful presentation of the musical "Oliver" with two different casts over the past two week-ends.
4. David Daniels and Robert Flaherty on their selection on the Irish Junior Fishing Team.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

1. The Fahy Family, Barrack Street, on the death of their mother.
2. The Sisters of Mercy on the death of Sister Bernadette.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of September, 2000.

Paul Ryan T.C.
 Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/9/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. County Manager, John Shaughnessy, Chief Fire Officer, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Fire Service: The meeting agreed to discuss the fire service first. An Cathaoirleach welcome Mr. John Shaughnessy, Chief Fire Officer to the meeting and added that the purpose of Mr. Shaughnessy's visit is to endeavour to answer members queries regarding the fire service in Loughrea, he then opened the meeting to the members. The following points were raised by the members:-
The urgent need for a second appliance in Loughrea; The need of a larger premises and additional equipment; The availability of excellent part-time firemen in the Loughrea Fire Service; Loughrea's central location; The need of a second appliance to deal with accidents, emergencies etc. Mr. Shaughnessy agreed that a station receiving 100 call outs per annum would require a second appliance and that Loughrea is in receipt of this amount of calls. With regard to new premises the County Council had acquired the bay beside the existing station. Mr Shaughnessy stated that it is difficult to get a suitable site in a central location but added that renting could be considered. He did however point out that the provision of a suitable site is a matter for the County Manager. Loughrea is scheduled for a new appliance in 2001. The provision of a new station is included in the Capital Programme and submitted to the Department for funding.
An Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Shaughnessy for his attendance.

Minutes: On the proposition of Commr. Gabriel Burke seconded by Commr. Maura Kelly-Stewart, the minutes of the last meeting held on the 10/7/00 were adopted and signed as correct.

Congratulations: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes the Galway Minor Hurling Team was congratulated on winning the All-Ireland Minor Title. Loughrea's Brian Mahony was on this team and John Maher was a substitute. The Loughrea Boys Volleyball Team was also congratulated on winning the gold medals at the Community Games.

Olympic Games: Olive Loughnane, daughter of Commr. Matt Loughnane was wished well in the forthcoming Olympic Games. Commr. Loughnane and his family, who are travelling to Sydney to support their daughter were wished bon voyage.

Carmelite Fathers: The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Prior has suggested the erection of a plaque to commemorate the 700 Anniversary of the arrival of the Carmelites in Loughrea. The Cathaoirleach and Town Clerk were asked to give further consideration to this suggestion and to report back to the next meeting.

Parking for Disabled: Commrs. Cronin and Kelly-Stewart stated that parking areas for the disabled are being abused. Mr. Diskin stated that he will instruct the Traffic Warden to pay greater attention to these areas. Commr. Gabriel Burke informed the meeting that the Credit Union has provided a parking area for disabled drivers in its carpark and he thanked the Town Engineer for his assistance in providing same.

Parking at Garrybreeda: Commr. G. Burke referred to parking difficulties on the Garrybreeda road. Mr. Diskin agreed to meet Commr. Burke to discuss this problem. Commr. Cronin complained about Trucks parking on the main road parallel to Garrybreeda Park, thereby obstructing the view coming off the Caheronaun Road. Mr. Diskin pointed out that this is a wide section of road and trucks are entitled to park there. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that auctions held in this area on Sundays are causing parking problems and she wondered if planning permission is required for this activity.

Bypass Road: Commr. Hynes asked if the bypass road is put on hold pending the finalisation of the new N6 road. Commr. Loughnane stated that every road should have accessibility to the bypass road and added that the Coursing Field road should be used to avoid using Cross Street, Commr. G. Burke agreed and stated that something should be done about the Gort Road. Mr. Tierney agreed that the bypass is intertwined with the proposal for a new N6 the second stage of which - i.e. considering the emerging preferred route, is now being looked at, this should be available in November.

Town Hall: Mr. Tierney informed the meeting that the County Council is in the process of acquiring the Town Hall and an application has been made for funding under the Arts & Culture Grants Scheme. A meeting is arranged with the interested parties week ending 25/9/00. Commr. Hynes complimented Mr. Tierney on his tenacity in bringing this about. Commr. Cronin stated that it was 3 members of the Arts Group and not the Heritage Group, as stated in the minutes, who had attended the last meeting.

Loughrea Swimming Pool: A reply from the Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation, Dr. McDaid, to deputy Ulick Burke, regarding Loughrea Swimming Pool was read to the meeting. The reply stated that Loughrea is one of ten new pool proposals currently with the Department, the up to date position on each proposal is being sought, all proposals will be re-examined to identify which will be supported under the Local Authorities Swimming Pool Programme 2000. Mr. Tierney stated that the relevant information was sent to the Department last July.

Loughrea Sewerage Scheme: Mr. Dempsey, Minister for the Environment and Local Government in reply to a question submitted by deputy Ulick Burke stated that he had approved funding to allow work to start on Phase 1 of the Loughrea Sewerage Scheme which will provide new wastewater treatment facilities for a population of 5,000. Phase 2 will depend on the pace of future development in the area. The Loughrea (Development of Services) Scheme which is intended to provide services for 1500 residential sites, is also approved for funding under the Services Land Initiative.

Local Government Bill 2000: A letter from Ballyshannon T.C. expressing concern that this Bill in not improving the status of Town Commissioners, was read to the meeting. Ballyshannon T.C. agreed to contract all other

Town Commissioners with a view to organising a national meeting and forming a vocational group to pursue this matter. No action was decided.

Annual Conference 2000: The meeting was invited to send delegates to the Annual Conference of L.A.M.A./National Association of Councillors (N. Ireland) & National Association of Councillors (Great Britain), which will be held in Ennis Friday/Sunday October 13th to 20th. in West County Hotel. The meeting decided to send 2 delegates -
 Commr. J. Regan, proposed by Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. G. Burke.
 Commr. A. Cronin, proposed by Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Curley.

Estimates Meeting: It was agreed to hold the Estimates Meeting on the same night as the October meeting.

Motion submitted by Commr. G. Burke:-

"I will propose that Galway County Council enforce the Planning Laws with regard to the closing time of late night food outlets."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Commr. Gunter-Nix suggested that an approach be made to the management and staff of these premises and also to the taxi drivers.

Abandoned Cars: Commr. Loughnane referred to a car that was abandoned and burned out at Fahy Gardens recently. Litter is also being dumped in this area. Mr. Diskin stated that this was reported to him, he had got the Litter Warden to call to this area, he is also in the process of submitting a report to the Council's Housing Section as this is in a Council housing estate. An Cathaoirleach stated that this is a blatant abuse of the Tenancy Agreement and the tenants responsible should accept the blame.

County Development Board: Commr. G. Burke informed the meeting that he had attended a meeting of the C.D.B. in Ballinasloe last July. Further meetings will be held in September, October, November & December and any suggestions can be submitted to the C.D.B.

Corry Memorial Park: Commr. Burke asked if there are any plans for this park, Mr. Diskin replied in the negative. Commr. Burke asked if the grass margins could be cut. Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that the grass had been advertised this year but no one was interested. Commr. Loughnane stated that the grass is being advertised too late and he proposed that the Town Clerk be given more flexibility in this matter, this was seconded by Commr. G. Burke and passed unanimously.

Lattimor River: Commr. Kelly-Stewart thanked Mr. Diskin for having this river cleaned.

Congratulations: Asst. Co. Manager, Declan Nelson was congratulated on being offered the position of County Manager in Monaghan. City Manager, Joe Gavin was congratulated on his appointment as City Manager in Cork.

Sympathy: The sympathy of Board was extended to the following:

1. Ignus Harney, Barrack Street on the death of his mother.
2. Ryan family, Cuscarrick on the death of Cherrie.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of October, 2000.

Maas Loughnane
 Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/10/00.

In the Chair: Commr. Matt Loughnane, Leas Cathaoirleach.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. James Regan, Cathaoirleach. (ill)

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Commr. Loughnane on behalf of all the members wished An Cathaoirleach, Commr. James Regan a speedy recovery.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11/9/00 were adopted and signed as correct, proposed by Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix.

Loughrea Sewerage: Commr. Hynes stated that it is time for the 2nd Stage of the Loughrea Sewerage Extension to get under way. Mr. Tierney stated that an Assessment of Need is being looked at by Galway Co. Council. Commr. Loughnane stated that this matter is on the agenda for the next County Council meeting.

Fast Food Outlets: In reply to Commr. Gabriel Burke, Mr. Tierney stated that bye-laws can be drafted by the Commissioners to govern fast food outlets. It was agreed to get a copy of the bye-law passed by Galway Corporation governing drinking in public.

International Road Race: On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke, seconded by Commr. Curley, it was unanimously agreed to give #500.00 to the Loughrea Athletic Club towards the cost of staging an international road race in Loughrea on the 15/10/00. Sonia O'Sullivan, Olympian Silver Medallist is to compete.

Estimates Meeting: It was decided to hold the Estimates Meeting on the 6/11/00 and to bring forward the monthly meeting to this date also. This was proposed by Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Motions submitted by Commr. Anna Cronin:

a. "Pot-holes at junction of Bride St./Caheronaun Road. Why is this section of the road in such poor condition."

This motion was withdrawn as improvement works were recently carried out on this road.

b. "Caheronaun Estate/Road junction. Work was carried out there recently and has been left in an appalling state."

Mr. Diskin explained that the work was done by Reddington Construction as a joint venture with themselves and Galway Co. Council to up-grade the water and sewerage services in this area. This work will be completed in the next week or so.

c."Corner of Lake Road/Cross St. Sign placed on narrow path means that most people must step onto the road at a very busy junction particularly school-children."

Mr. Diskin explained that a stop sign must be in line with the stop line. This path is only 2 ft. wide. With the owners permission a sign could be put on the wall of the adjoining property but Mr. Diskin felt that large trucks would then hit the sign.

Draft Plan: Commr. Loughnane stated that taking into account the re-zoning of land on the east side of the town that there should be an access road from the Tynagh Road onto the N6. Commr. G. Burke agreed and added that a similar type road is required from the Gort Road to the N6. It was agreed to have this matter on the agenda for the next meeting. Commr. Gunter-Nix felt that there should be more frequent meetings with the Area Councillors to discuss matters such as these.

Fas Training Centre: Commr. Hynes stated that a Fas Training Centre should be provided in Loughrea and he proposed that a representative of Fas be invited to one of our meetings. Commr. Curley seconded this proposal.

Ard Breedia Housing Estate: Commr. G. Burke referred to the poor state in which the road and footpaths are left in this estate due to ongoing building and he felt that the contractor should be made bring them up to standard. Mr. Diskin explained that the contractor would have provided a bond to ensure the proper completion of the estate and he undertook to take it up with the planning section.

Travellers: Commr. G. Burke stated that last Monday, due to the fact that a convey of travellers were approaching the town, business premises were advised to close their businesses. He said that something must be done to curtail this type of intimidation and he wondered what law and order come to. Commr. Curley agreed and said that this is happening too often. On the proposition of Commr. Cronin it was decided to inform the Minister for Justice that Loughrea Town Commissioners support the Gardai in their quest for additional members.

Vandalism in Church of Ireland B.G.: Mr. Diskin informed the meeting that he had received a complaint that tombs in the Church of Ireland B.G. were vandalised with graffiti. The Commissioners condemned this vandalism.

Congratulations: Votes of congratulation were passed to the following:

1. Olive Loughnane on her achievement in competing in the Sydney Olympics
2. St Brendan's Choral & Dramatic Society on the success of their "Euro Town" night in the Temperance Hall.
3. The Galway Football Team in reaching the All-Ireland Senior final.

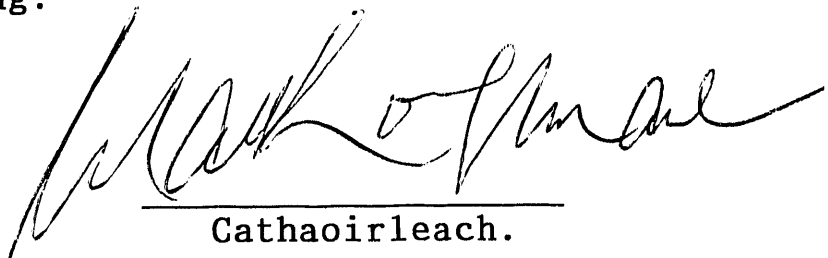
Thanks: Commr. Gunter-Nix thanked the Town Clerk for securing tickets for the All-Ireland Football Final and replay.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

1. Michael Kenny, 19 Fahy Gardens on the death of his sister.
2. The Burke Family, 72 Fahy Gardens on the death of Mrs. Maise Burke.
3. Minister Noel Treacy and family on the death of their mother Margaret.
4. The relatives of the late Patsy Doyle, St. Brendan's Home.
5. Kitty Devine, St. Brendan's Home on the death of her brother.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 6th day of November, 2000.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 6/11/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Matt Loughnane. Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, James Regan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Anna Cronin.

Meeting opened with prayers.

In accordance with Sections 9 & 10 of the County & City Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, Mr. John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, presented the Estimate of Expenses for the year 2001. Mr. Tierney stated that income showed an increase for the coming year as a result of an increase in interest rates while expenditure is also slightly increased. A sum of #2,000.00 is provided for the Town Hall Fund. The rate proposed for 2001 is 214.12 in the pound, an increase of 5% on last year. Commr. Hynes asked if this increase is necessary, Mr. Tierney replied in the affirmative adding that the proposed increase is well under the proposed 9% cap.

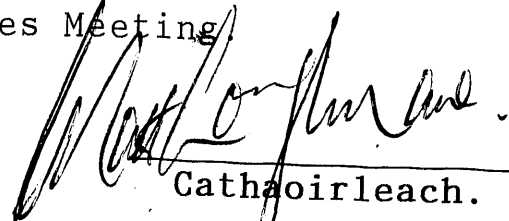
Commr. Gunter-Nix complimented the officials on the excellent manner in which they had looked after the financial affairs of the Board.

On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke, seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix, the following proposals were passed unanimously:

1. That the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the Financial Year ending on the 31st. December, 2001, as set forth at A, B, & C on the form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.
2. That the Demand be made on Galway Co. Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of #36,650.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31st December, 2001 and that the Form of Demand be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting

Signed this the 11th day of December, 2000.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 6/11/00.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Matt Loughnane. Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Pat Hynes, James Regan.

Officials: John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Anna Cronin.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 9/10/00 were adopted and signed as correct, proposed by Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix.

Fast Food Outlets: Mr. Tierney stated that what he had said the last night was that issues under planning permission should be carried out, he has sought legal advice on this matter and will report back to the next meeting.

Discussion with Local Co. Councillors: In reply to Commr. Gunter-Nix, Commr. Loughnane stated that a meeting can be arranged with the Councillors for the Loughrea area provided the meeting takes place during the day. Commr. Gunter-Nix made the point that most of the Commissioners work during the day and consequently the meeting should take place at evening time. It was decided to seek a meeting with the Loughrea Area Councillors for Wednesday, January 17th, 2001 at 7/30 p.m.

Ard Breedia Estate: In reply to Commr. G. Burke, Mr. Diskin stated that permission was granted for 62 houses in this estate, 49 are built and five are under construction. The County Council have control over 4 sites to ensure the proper completion of the estate. It was decided to ask the County Council to get the developer to complete the road surface.

International Road Race: Commr. G. Burke congratulated all concerned with the staging of the international road race in Loughrea on Sunday October 15th last. He referred to the good publicity which Loughrea had received from the live television coverage of the race and he felt if this film was condensed it could be used to promote the town. Commr. Burke also congratulated the council staff on the manner in which they had prepared the town. Mr. Tierney stated that the county council hope to be in touch with R.T.E. with regard to this film. Commr. Loughnane suggested acknowledging the effort of the Athletic Club in hosting the race and it was agreed that he should discuss this with them. Commr. Gunter-Nix suggested that should Sonia O'Sullivan return to compete next year that she should be afforded a civic reception. Sonia O'Sullivan was congratulated on her victory in the Dublin City Marathon.

Carmelite Fathers: Commr. Loughnane was delegated to meet the Prior of the Carmelite Fathers with regard to commemorating the 700 Anniversary of their coming to Loughrea.

Relief Road: On the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Curley it was decided it was decided to suggest to Galway Co. Council that distributary roads to connect the N66 with the N6 and the Mount Pleasant area with the N6 in Loughrea should be considered. Commr. Hynes stated that what Loughrea needs is a ring road and it was also agreed to forward this suggestion to Galway County Council.

National Pay Awards: On the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. G. Burke, the National Pay Award as set out in Circular Letter EL 9/00 of the 6/10/00, was approved for employees of the Loughrea Town Commissioners.

Junction to Meadow Court Hotel: Commr. Curley referred to the dangerous junction at Carrowmore leading to the Meadow Court Hotel which is the scene of many accidents and he asked what can be done to improve it. Mr. Diskin stated that funding has been sought by Galway Co. Council to provide a "Ghost Island" at this junction. It was decided to write to the NRA to support this request for funding.

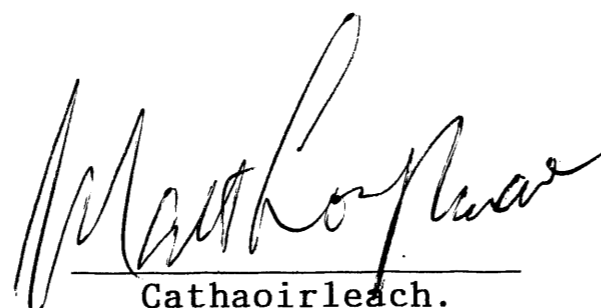
Bus Bays: Commr. G. Burke requested that the bus bays be moved from Main Street as the buses are not using. It was pointed out that at times cars are parked in these bus bays. Commr. Burke stated that he has seen buses doubled parked despite the fact that the bus bays were free. Mr. Diskin stated that the Traffic Warden had had words with a bus driver who was doubled parked, the driver drove away as the Traffic Warden was about to write a ticket.

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of the following:

1. Ray Gafney, Ashlawn, Loughrea.
2. Mrs. Phyllis Murphy, Barrack St., Loughrea.
3. Pat Connaughton, Gort Road, Loughrea.
4. Marie Reilly, St. Laurencesfields, Loughrea.
5. Eamon O'Dea formerly of Liam Mellows Terrace, Loughrea.
6. Martin Daniels, Cosmona, Loughrea.
7. Paddy Cavanagh, Gort Road, Loughrea.
8. Joe Gillane, St. Laurencesfields, Loughrea.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 11th day of December, 2000.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 11/12/00.

In the Chair: Commr. Matt Loughnane, Leas Cathaoirleach.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, James Regan.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, John Tierney, Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Commr. Loughnane in welcoming the officials and members to the meeting stated that this is the last meeting that Mr. Tierney will attend as Asst. County Manager. Mr. Tierney was congratulated on his appointment as Galway City Manager and wished well on his new appointment.

Minutes: The minutes of Estimates Meeting held on the 6/11/00 were approved and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley, seconded by Commr. Gabriel Burke.

Monthly Meeting: The minutes of this meeting, held on the 6/11/00 were approved and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. Curley.

Relief Roads: Arising from the minutes, Commr. Loughnane stated that copies of any proposals relating to relief roads in Loughrea should also be sent to the Area Committee per Tony Murphy.

Discussions with Area Councillors: Commr. Gunter-Nix felt that Commr. Loughnane might use his position with regard to bringing these about.

Carmelite Fathers - 700 Anniversary: Commr. Loughnane informed the meeting that he had discussed the commemoration of this event with the Prior and they had agreed to defer the matter pending further developments.

Traffic Problems: A copy of Loughrea Chamber of Commerce letter dated 21/11/00, which had appeared in the Connacht Tribune was read to the meeting. It was felt that suggestions made in this letter required more detailed discussion and it was agreed to invite the Chamber of Commerce to the January meeting of the Board.

Resolution from Balbriggan Town Commissioners: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Cronin, it was unanimously agreed to support the following resolution from Balbriggan Town Commissioners:

"Balbriggan Town Commissioners call on the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs to review the current method of means testing for Carers Allowance with a view to accessing an application in their own right and not on what their spouse or partner is earning."

A.M.A.I. Annual Spring Seminar: Commr. James Regan was appointed to attend the Annual Spring Seminar of the A.M.A.I. to be held in the Brandon Hotel, Tralee on Friday 9th February, 2001. Commr. Regan was proposed by Commr. Loughnane and seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

Loughrea Swimming Pool: A letter from Geraldine Murray, Hon. Sec., Loughrea Swimming Pool Development Company stating that they are dismayed, disillusioned and very angry. Dismayed at the recent announcement to seek funding & support for 2 replacement pools for County Galway. Disillusioned because funding that was promised is not forthcoming and angry at the lack of progress.

Mr. Tierney stated that as he understands it there are two separate funds, #30m for refurbishment and #15m for new pools. Loughrea is being considered under the new pools while the others are being considered for refurbishment. Commr. G. Burke stated that he was in touch with the Dept. last Thursday and while Loughrea was originally one of ten it is now one of twenty-five under consideration and he understands that refurbishment will take preference over new pools.

Mr. Tierney stated that the Co. Co. will write to the Dept. seeking clarification as to which fund Loughrea is being considered under.

Auditor's Report: The Auditor's Report in respect of Y/E 31/12/99 was presented to the meeting. The report was satisfactory.

"Walk Through History": Commr. Gunter-Nix informed the meeting that a "Walk Through History" organised by the Loughrea Environmental Group is arranged for Sunday next at 3/30 p.m. and she invited all the members to attend.

Arts, Heritage & Conservation: Mr. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that the Co. Council has appointed Arts, Heritage and Conservation Officers and he suggested that they might be invited to attend a future meeting.

Annual Mass: Commr. Gunter-Nix was asked to arrange the Annual Mass.

Thanks: Commr. Cronin stated that as she wished to be excused, she would like to pay tribute and thank Mr. Tierney for the help and courtesy which he had given during his term of office and she wished him well in his new appointment.

Congratulations: Votes of congratulations were passed with the following:

1. Loughrea Choral & Dramatic Society on its production of "Hello Dolly"
2. St. Raphaels College on its production of "My Fair Lady".

Votes of Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the following:

1. The Kerr & Byrne Families, Lakeside Park, on the death of Margaret Kerr.
2. Michael O'Donnell & family, Tullahill on the death of his wife, Golly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 8th day of January, 2001.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 8/1/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. Matt Loughnane, Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, James Regan.

Officials: Ernie Lusby, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11/12/00 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley, seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Link Road: Arising from the minutes Commr. Hynes asked if there was any information with regard to the provision of a link road which was suggested at the last meeting. The Town Clerk stated that the proposal was sent to the Co. Council and is now with the forward planning section. Commr. Loughnane stated that an action plan is required with the amount of re-zoning proposed for Loughrea under the Draft Plan which will be soon considered by a full meeting of the Co. Council.

Area Councillors: Commr. Loughnane informed the members that the proposed meeting with the Area Councillors will not take place on January 17th. Commr. Loughnane pointed out the difficulty of expecting the officials to be available after normal hours and there is not much point in going ahead without officials. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that she is not fussy about the officials being present as long as matters effecting Loughrea are discussed with the Area Councillors. After further discussion it was agreed that the members would initially attend a meeting of the area councillors. Commr. Kelly-Stewart requested that members be given a weeks notice for the meeting.

Annual Mass: Commr. Gunter-Nix informed the meeting that the only date that is available for the annual mass is March 17th. It was agreed to go ahead with this date.

Athletic Club: A letter from the Loughrea Athletic Club expressing its thanks for the #500 which the Board had donated to the Bupa Ireland Loughrea run was read to the meeting.

A.M.A.I. The meeting agreed to pay its Annual Subscription of #280.00

Loughrea Swimming Pool: A letter which Deputy Ulick Burke received from Dr. James McDaid, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation was read to the meeting. This letter stated that Galway Co. Council had submitted an application for funding for the Loughrea Pool and that this application is being considered along with all other applications for new pools. Mr. Lusby stated that he was informed by the Department that there are 14 applications for new pools, 21 applications for the refurbishment of pools and 11 applications for replacement of pools under consideration. Commr. G. Burke stated that when Loughrea first applied, 7 years ago, there were only 3 or 4 applicants for new pools. The local committee had raised

#150,00 and they were promised that the balance would be forthcoming. It was agreed on the proposition of Commr. Curley to seek a meeting with the Minister and that the four local T.Ds. be informed.

Traffic Problems: A deputation consisting of Kevin Glynn, Gerard McInerney and Leo McGuinness from Loughrea Chamber of Commerce addressed the meeting regarding the volume of traffic passing through Loughrea. Mr. Glynn stated that the Chamber favoured the safety of the people as against the smooth movement of traffic, he referred to the knocking off the pedestrian crossing lights during busy bank holiday weekends and stated that there is a need for two additional crossings in Loughrea. Mr. Diskin in reply stated that Co. Council personnel do not turn off the pedestrian lights at weekends. With regard to additional crossings, Mr. Diskin explained that parking is prohibited 15m each side of the crossing, a certain warrant must also be met to justify the provision of a crossing and he will try to have a count taken before the next meeting. In reply to Commr. Cronin, Mr. Diskin stated that he understood that the proposed bypass is on hold pending the selection of the preferred route of the proposed motorway. Mr. Glynn stated that the Chamber is very much in favour of the bypass and are disappointed with the lack of progress.

Refuse Charges: Commr. Curley referred to the increase in refuse charges and asked can anything be done. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that a greater emphasis on recycling might help. Mr. Lusby stated that cost will continue to rise and the polluter will have to pay. Commr. Loughnane stated that recycling is not sufficient in itself and that the Department is not providing sufficient funds to deal with the problem. Commr. Kelly-Stewart proposed that consideration be given to the recycling of plastic and she suggested that a centre be set up in Loughrea. On the suggestion of Mr. Lusby it was agreed to submit the suggestion of recycling plastic to Mr. Liam Gavin, Environment Section of Galway Co. Council.

Ambulance Service: On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Curley it was agreed to request the Western Health Board to provide a mini bus to convey patients to outpatient clinics at Galway and Ballinasloe, thereby freeing up the ambulances for more urgent needs.

Fire Service: On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke it was decided to enquire as to the present position with regard to the provision of a second fire tender for Loughrea.

Sympathy: The sympathy of the Board was extended to the relatives of -

1. Kathleen Reilly, Mount Carmel Crescent, Loughrea.
2. Maureen Carty, Moore St., Loughrea.
3. Tommy Carty, Tullahill, Loughrea.
4. Lilly Burke, Athenry Road, Loughrea.
5. Lizzy Moran, Fahy Gardens, Loughrea.
6. Agatha Manton, Bride Street, Loughrea.
7. Annie Manning, Barrack Street, Loughrea.
8. Tom. Sheil, Kylebrack.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 17th day of February, 2001.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners at their monthly meeting held on the 12/2/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Ernest Lusby, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 8/1/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

Fire Service: In reply to Commr. G. Burke regarding the provision of a second fire tender for Loughrea, Mr. Lusby stated that a 5 year revision of the fire service in the County will be coming before the Co. Council soon and the position will be clarified then. Commr. Loughnane stated that this will be discussed at the next Area Council meeting and he proposed that the Area Secretary be asked to have this on the agenda.

Traffic Count: In reply to Commr. Gunter-Nix, Mr. Diskin stated that a traffic count taken at the Westbridge does not meet the warrant required to justify a pedestrian crossing. Other traffic arrangements are being considered and he may have some further information for the March meeting.

Waste Recycling: Commr. Gunter-Nix referred to the cost of recycling bins and she proposed that compost containers be made available to people at a cheaper rate, this was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart. Commr. Loughnane stated that his grip is with the Department which is not providing the Council with enough funds. Only six schools within the county have recycling bins when every school should have one. He proposed writing to the Department seeking more funding, this was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart. Commr. Cronin stated that the Government has no interest in recycling and is pushing the use of incinerator.

Ambulance Service: In reply to Commr. Hynes the Town Clerk stated that the Western Health Board had indicated that it is examining the request for a better ambulance service.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce in his letter of the 21/1/01, informed the meeting that approval was given for the appointment of Consultants by Galway Co. Council to proceed with the Preliminary, Design & Construction stages for the proposed swimming pool. The letter went on to point out that there are 4 stages remaining in the project - the Preliminary Report Stage, Contract Document Stage, Tender Stage & Construction Stage. When tenders are received the relevant grant will be allocated to it. This news was welcomed by all the members and Commr. G. Burke, who is also Chairman of the Swimming Pool Committee thanked everyone who had contributed to bringing the project this far.

Garda Strength: The meeting was informed by Mr. John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform of the present Garda strength

in the Loughrea area. The Garda authorities are satisfied with its current personnel strength and also pointed out that policing arrangements for the area are kept under continual review. Commr. Cronin stated that there is not a regular Garda presence in The Walks which is becoming a bit of a no-go area. Commr. G. Burke referred to the consumption of intoxicating drink in this area.

Cruinniu: A letter from Mr. Eoghan Mac Cormaic of Cruinniu was read to the meeting. Mr. Mac Cormaic in his letter sought permission from the Commissioners to donate a park bench to be sited in Corry Park to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Hunger Strikes in Northern Ireland. It was agreed to invite Mr. Mac Cormaic to the next meeting of the Board.

Corry Park: An Cathaoirleach expressed the opinion that it is time to prepare plans for the development of Corry Park. This was agreed by the rest of the members.

Conradh na Gaelige: Conradh na Gaelige sought permission to plant some trees in the town during "National Tree Week" 5-11 March. On the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. G. Burke is was agreed to give the necessary permission on a site to be agreed in consultation with the Town Engineer. Commr. Gunter-Nix suggested that native broad leaf trees should get consideration. Conradh na Gaelige also informed the meeting that Comhdhail Oirthear na Gaillimhe will take place on Sat. 28 April next. This conference will be based on the demands of the survey carried out by Conradh na Gaelige last year. It was agreed to invite Mr. Padraig O Baoill of Conradh na Gaelige to the next meeting to give further information about this conference.

Planning Permission: A letter from Mrs. Kathleen Barrett, 9 Athenry Road, Loughrea objecting to a housing development which is under construction adjacent to her property was read to the meeting. An Cathaoirleach pointed out that Galway Co. Council is the Planning Authority and therefore this is a matter for the Co. Council. This letter was marked read.

Members Expenses: Circular Letter LG 1/01 dated 30/1/01 from Dept. of the Environment stating that members annual allowances have been increase from #604 to #609 with effect from the 1/1/2000 was read to the meeting.

Remuneration: An increase of remuneration in accordance with Circular Letter EL 4/2001, for General Operatives and related grades for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners was approved on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Motions submitted by Commr. Pat Hynes:

a. "That Galway County Council provide sewerage services at Ballygasty and Cosmona"

This motion was seconded by Commr. Curley.

Commr. Loghnane stated that the maps for the 2nd Stage of Loughrea Sewerage Scheme are prepared and he proposed that they be put on display at the next meeting. This was seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

b. "That Galway County Council install central heating in all local authority houses."
This motion was seconded by Commr. Curley.

c. "To discuss that the proposed Loughrea Relief Road be constructed in one single phase as opposed to the proposed piecemeal development."
Commr. Curley seconded this proposal.
The meeting was informed that a public consultation on the emerging preferred route for the proposed new road will take place in the Temperance Hall on Wednesday next.

Motions submitted by Commr. Maura Kelly-Stewart:

a. "Is it possible that we would get in Loughrea a state run creche for young people who would love to take part in Fas Courses etc. but they cannot afford baby minders fees. Surely this could be provided from Lotto Funds."

Commr. Hynes seconded this proposal.
Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that the Galway Youth Federation run something of this nature and she thought it might be funded by the Dept. of Social Community & Family Affairs. Commr. Cronin thought that the Galway Vocational Education Committee should be contacted. On the suggestion of Commr. Gunter-Nix it was agreed that the members should meet to discuss the best way to approach this matter.

b. "That the Minister for Health be asked to provide Lotto Funding to cover a Mobile Breast Cancer Screening unit for the towns of Galway."
This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

c. "That the members of the Board should write to the Minister for Health to secure funding for Galway Hospice."
This was seconded by Commr. Curley.

Washing of Horses: Commr. Regan stated that a large number of horses were washed in the lake after the hunt last Saturday. The Town Clerk stated that the Environment Section of Galway Co. Council is pursuing this matter

Planning Permission: Commr. G. Burke asked planning permission is being deferred in Loughrea due to inadequate sewerage facilities. On the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Burke it was decided to invite the Planning Officer for the Loughrea Area to the next meeting to clarify the matter.

Boreencom: Commr. Cronin referred to the danger of traffic speeding in Boreencom and she wants these cars slowed down.

Garrybreeda Development: Commr. Cronin asked what is being done to get the developer to complete the services at Garrybreeda. Mr. Diskin stated that he understands that the Planning Section of Galway Co. Council are pursuing the recovery of the Bond to ensure the completing of services.

Euro Conference: Commr. Gunter-Nix reminded the meeting that a Euro Conference will be held in the Meadow Court Hotel on Monday next and that Mr. Pedro Solbes Mira, European Commissioner for Economic & Monetary Affairs will attend. On the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Cronin it was agreed to make a presentation to Commissioner Solbes.

Parking Discs: In reply to Commr. G. Burke, Mr. Lusby stated that Parking Bye-laws are being introduced for the County, these bye-laws provide for disc parking but he is not aware of disc parking being introduced in Loughrea.

Sympathy: Votes of sympathy was extended to the relative of the following:

Jim. McDonald, Fahy Gardens;

Mrs. McNamee, Bride St.;

Tom Kelly, Athenry Road.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the ^{11th} day of ^{Feb} ~~March~~, 2001.

James Regan Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/4/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, Ernest Lusby, Acting Asst. Co. Manager, James Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed An Cathaoirleach, Commr. Regan stated that recently he was asked by two ladies to accompany them to a meeting with a County Council Official regarding the housing of a tenant at St. Laurences Fields, having arrived for the meeting, the Council Official refused to meet him but was prepared to meet the two Ladies. Commr. Regan took grave exception to the fact that this Official was not prepared to meet the first citizen of the town and consequently he is considering resigning as Cathaoirleach of the Board. Commr. Regan pointed out that at the September meeting of the Board the appalling condition of the area around a house occupied by family members of this new tenant was pointed out to the Council, photos were produced to substantiate this claim. Commr. Regan claimed that the Co. Council now propose to house this individual in an adjoining house. After some discussion it was decided on the proposition of Commr. Gabriel Burke, seconded by Commr. Curley to adjourn the meeting for a few minutes to enable the members to discuss the matter among themselves. On resumption, Commr. G. Burke stated that they had discussed the matter among themselves and with the County Manager and as a result they have agreed to adjourn this meeting until the May meeting to await developments.

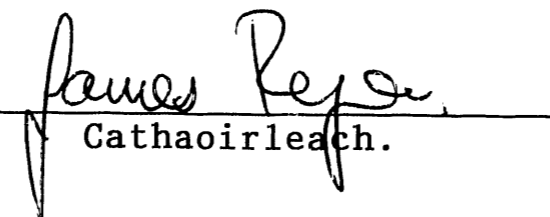
Better Local Government: The Town Clerk pointed out that the County Manager is present at the meeting to introduce Mr. Jim Cullen who was recently appointed Director of Services for the Loughrea Electoral Area and he requested that he be given the opportunity to do so. This was acceptable to the meeting.

Mr. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that arising from Better Local Government - A Programme for Change, he had recently appointed the following Directors of Service - Tom Kavanagh - Environmental & Conservation Services and Ballinasloe U.D.C. for Ballinasloe Electoral Area; Paul Ridge - Planning & Economic Development and Tuam Town Commission Tuam Electoral Area; Jim Cullen - Cultural & General Services and Loughrea Town Commission, Loughrea Electoral Area; John Morgan - Road & Transportation and Conamara Electoral Area; Frank Gilmore - Housing Services and Oranmore Electoral Area; Frank Dawson - Community & Enterprise and County Development Board; Ernie Lusby - Head of Finance, Financial Management, Internal Audit & Information Technology. The new structure incorporates 5 S.P.Cs and it is hoped to provide a more efficient and customer friendly service. Mr. O'Donoghue formally introduced Mr. Cullen and suggested that the Commissioners should have a closer relationship with the County Council representatives for the area. Mr. O'Donoghue thanked the members and officials for their work on behalf of Loughrea. Mr. Cullen stated that he is looking forward to coming to Loughrea and he hoped that together they could work for the betterment of the area. The members welcomed Mr. Cullen and wished him well on his appointment.

The members also complimented Mr. Lusby on his efforts during his period in Loughrea. Commr. Gabriel referred to Mr. Lusby's efforts on behalf of the swimming pool and he is looking forward to Mr. Cullen taking this project in hand. Mr. Lusby in reply thanked the members for their kind remarks and added that he had enjoyed his time in Loughrea.

The meeting then adjourned.

Signed this the 14th day of May, 2001.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 14/5/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, Gabriel Burke, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer, and Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Maura Kelly-Stewart.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Before considering the minutes of previous meetings, Commr. Loughnane was granted permission to deal with item 4 on the agenda which was :-

Revision of Remuneration - 30th Pay Round Phase 2. This was approved for employees of the Loughrea Town Commissioners on the proposition of Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Curley.

Date of Annual Meeting: It was unanimously agreed to hold the Annual Meeting together with the June Monthly Meeting on Wednesday June 6th, 2001. Proposed by Commr. Loughnane seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Minutes of Meeting held on the 12/2/01: These were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Curley.

Arising from these minutes Commr. G. Burke stated that when he questioned drinking in public places he was not specifically referring to The Walks. He also had other areas of the town in mind when he raised this matter. He had requested the previous Asst. Co. Manager, Mr. John Tierney to look into the legislation governing by-laws to control drinking in public and he now request Mr. Cullen to take up the matter.

Minutes of Meeting held on the 9/4/01: These were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Cronin seconded by Commr. G. Burke. Arising from these minutes Commr. Hynes asked if there were any development with regard to the cleaning up of St. Laurencesfeilds Housing Estate. Commr. Loughnane remarked that derelict cars were to be removed, the fact that this did not happen has caused disappointment and anger and the people in the estate are getting very annoyed. Commr. Regan stated that he is disappointed that no apology was made to him for being refused permission to attend a meeting between a Co. Council Official and two tenants from the estate. Mr. Cullen stated that the removal of abandoned cars is not always straight-forward, this together with the condition of the estate is being pursued and he cannot see why this should interfere with the business of the Commissioners.

Commr. Regan proposed that the meeting adjourn for 10 minutes to enable him to discuss the matter with his colleagues, this was seconded by Commr. Burke and agreed. On resumption, Commr. Regan stated that he is bitterly disappointed that nothing was done since the last meeting, there are now four abandoned cars on the estate, three of which were burned out, the fire service was called

out to these fires at the ratepayers expense. Commr. Hynes strongly emphasised the right of the elected members to bring complaints to the attention of the Board and he is disappointed that there was no action from the management side. Commr. Loughnane stated that the Commissioners operate under the guidance of the D.O.E. and if we are powerless to have derelict cars removed this could have serious implications. If it is a case of Officials getting the better of the Commissioners this posed serious questions for democracy.

Commr. Cronin also expressed her disappointment that no progress was made, she has sympathy for the residents. It is an extremely serious issue and as the people on the ground the Commissioners are making it their business. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that this estate had featured among the prizewinners in Tidy Towns competitions and it is a pity that the efforts of the majority is being undone by the actions of a few.

Commr. Curley stated that he was present with the fire service at some of these fires and it is a pity to see this type of thing happening. Mr. Cullen in reply stated that he wished to reply in a positive note, it is his intention to work in co-operation with the members, the County Council want to clean up this estate and to this end the Housing Liaison Officer had visited the area. With regard to the abandoned cars, the Commissioners have every right to be concerned - he had never said otherwise and he will do all he can to have these removed as quickly as possible. He strongly rejected the suggestion that the Officials want to get the better of the Commissioners. Commr. Loughnane withdrew this statement as he did not wish it to develop.

When Commr. Hynes asked why the Chairman was refused permission to attend a meeting Mr. Cullen replied that he did not consider it appropriate to offer any comment. At this stage An Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting.

Signed this the 6th day of June, 2001.

James Regan T.S.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 6/6/01

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes and James Curley.

Officials: Messrs. Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

The outgoing Cathaoirleach in welcoming the members to the meeting thanked his fellow members for their help and co-operation during the year. He thanked in particular the Leas-Cathaoirleach as due to his own illness during the year he had to call on his services quite a lot. The Cathaoirleach also thanked the officials for their co-operation.

Election of Cathaoirleach: There were two nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach:

1. Commr. Matt Loughnane was proposed by Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. O. Burke.
2. Commr. James Regan was proposed by Commr. Curley, seconded by Commr. Cronin.

A vote ensued and resulted as follows:

For Commr. Loughnane - Commrs. Loughnane, Gunter-Nix, Orla Burke and G. Burke. **4 Votes**

For Commr. Regan - Commrs. Regan, Curley, Cronin, Kelly-Stewart and Hynes. **5 Votes**

Commr. Regan was declared elected.

Commr. Regan thanked his proposer and seconded and the people who had voted for him.

Commr. Loughnane also thanked his proposer and seconder and the people who had stood by their word.

Mr. Cullen congratulated Commr. Regan on his re-election and stated that he is looking forward to working with the Board for the benefit of the area.

Election of Leas-Cathaoirleach: There were two proposals for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach:

1. Commr. Pat Hynes was proposed by Commr. Curley and seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.
2. Commr. Gabriel Burke was proposed by Commr. Loughnane and seconded by Commr. O. Burke.

A vote was taken and resulted as follows:-

For Commr. Hynes: Commrs. Hynes, Curley, Cronin, Kelly-Stewart and Regan. **5 Votes**

For Commr. G. Burke: Commrs. G. Burke, Loughnane, O. Burke and Gunter-Nix. **4 Votes**

Commr. Hynes was declared elected.

Commr. Hynes thanked his proposer and seconder and the people who had voted for him. He congratulated An Cathaoirleach on his re-election and wished him well for the year.

Commr. G. Burke also thanked his proposer and seconder and the people who had voted for him.

Comms. G. Burke, O. Burke and M. Loughnane expressed their disappointment and annoyance with An Cathaoirleach for not keeping his word and for voting against the Fianna Fail party and left the meeting in protest. Commr. Gunter-Nix referred to an agreement that had been reached at a party meeting prior to the Annual Meeting and she felt that this agreement should have been kept, however she is remaining on at the meeting to carry out the business of the Board.

Commr. Cronin stated that she was dismayed with the attitude of the members, she wished Commr. Regan well. Comms. Curley and Kelly-Stewart also congratulated Commr. Regan as did the officials present.

Commr. Regan stated that he is sorry if his election is a source of embarrassment, he had no prior knowledge that his name would be put forward and he is sorry if it has caused any offence.

This concluded the business of the Annual Meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of July, 2001.

James Regan T.C.
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 6/6/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Pat Hynes, James Curley.

Officials: Messrs. Jim Cullen Director of Services, John Diskin Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion Town Clerk.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on the 14/5/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix.

Matters arising from the minutes:

St. Laurencesfields Housing Estate: In reply to Commr. Hynes, Mr. Cullen stated that the County Council will do all in its power to address the problems in this estate. Since the last meeting County Council and Respond officials had visited every house in the estate and tenants are invited to get involved in the management of the estate. Mr. Cullen added that while there are difficulties to be ironed out he is confident of progress.

Commr. Kelly-Stewart complimented Mr. Cullen on the progress to date and she hoped that this will not be an once off effort.

Breast Cancer Screening Unit: A letter from Mr. Michael Martin T.D., Minister for Health & Children dated 26/4/01 was considered by the meeting. This letter stated under the National Cancer Strategy it is proposed to introduce on a phased basis a National Breast Screening Programme. Phase 1 of this Programme has commenced and is covering the Eastern, North Eastern and Midland Health Board areas. The meeting was not satisfied with this reply as the members felt that this service is required immediately in the area and on the proposition of Commr. Cronin seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart it was decided to inform the Minister accordingly.

Special Olympics World Games: A letter setting out the ideals of the Host Town Programme for these games was considered, the letter also sought the support of the Board for this project. Commr. Cronin stated that she was delighted to see that the Chamber of Commerce is holding a public meeting next Thursday night to consider this matter and she appealed to all the members to attend.

A.M.A.I.: The meeting was informed that the Annual Conference of the A.M.A.I. will take place in Letterkenny on September 13th, 14th & 15th and that Local Authorities who wish can table two motions for discussion at this conference. Motions must be submitted by 29/6/01.

Ambulance Service: The Western Health Board in its letter dated 27/2/01 set out the guide lines under which it's Ambulance Service operates and pointed out that the service is organised to ensure that ambulances are available to provide emergency cover.

County Development Plan: Galway County Council in its letter of the 28/5/01 gave notice of the review of the existing County Development Plan 1997-2002 and the preparation of a new Development Plan pursuant to Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. Submissions may be made in writing to Galway County Council up to the 20th July, 2001.

Loughrea Town Plan: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that the Loughrea Town Plan is down for discussion at next Friday's County Council meeting.

Abstract of Accounts: The Town Clerk presented the Abstract of Accounts for the year 2000. These were noted on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Travelling Expenses: Travelling Expenses for Local Authority Officers as set out in Circular Letter EL 8/01 of the 6/4/01 were approved on the proposition of Commr. Kelly-Stewart seconded by Commr. Cronin.

Motions submitted by Commr. Cronin:

a) "I request that the detailed submission regarding improvements in the area known as The Walks be examined with a view to putting them into practise. The condition of the gates grows worse with the passing of each year. This area in our town is people by young and old and is adjacent to one of Loughrea's most treasured institutions, the Carmelite Abbey. It is part of our heritage and we have a duty to preserve it for future generations."

The motion was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Commr. Cronin stated that the gates are an eye sore and need immediate attention.

Commr. Gunter-Nix agreed that the gates need attention but added that The Walks is definitely not an eye sore, The Loughrea Environmental Group had planted daffodils there and that litter bins had been provided there within two weeks of asking.

Mr. Diskin stated that the quotation for having the gates replaced is #12,500, money is not available at present for this work but could be forthcoming under an Urban Renewal Scheme. He felt that it would not be prudent to carry out a cosmetic job on the gates.

b) "I wish to table a resolution of support for the concept of Loughrea being a "Host Town" in the forthcoming Special Olympic World Games. From 20th - 29th June, 2003, the island of Ireland will play host to the biggest sports and multicultural event in the world that year. The Special Olympic World Games will be the largest international sporting event ever in our island's history. 7000 athletes, plus their coaches and families will gather from 160 countries to compete in the greater Dublin area. As the delegation will have travelled a long distance they will need time to acclimatize and rest before the games begin, also to avail of sports training in advance of their competing. I would ask the Commissioners to support this resolution that Loughrea share in the hosting of these athletes and open our doors to people who epitomise bravery and resilience."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Curley and passed unanimously.

c) "I have been requested by the Residents' Association of the area known as The Waterfront to draw your attention to the fact that the entrance from the Gort Road to this estate is extremely obscure. Improved signposting is warranted here."

Commr. Hynes seconded this motion.

Commr. Cronin stated that the place name is too small and required bigger signage.

Mr. Diskin pointed out that the developer provides the place name and the complaint that he had received was that the road signage is too big.

Motions submitted by Commr. Gunter-Nix:

a) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners suitably recognise the historic event taking place in Loughrea on 11th 12th & 13th June, 2001, when the relicts of St. Therese of Lisieux will visit the town".

This motion which was seconded by Commr. Curley had the unanimous support of the members.

b) "That a presentation be made to Rev. Alan Burke, Gort Road, Loughrea on the occasion of his Ordination to the Priesthood on June 6th, 2001."

This was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Commr. Gunter-Nix formally congratulated Fr. Burke and the Burke family on his ordination.

b) "That Loughrea Town Commissioners make a contribution to the Youth Development Project in acknowledgement of the work being done on behalf of the young people of the town."

This was seconded by Commr. Curley

The Town Clerk pointed out that a request for funding for St. Ita's Band is also before the meeting.

Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that expenditure must be kept within the Estimate and within reason.

Commr. Cronin suggested that that the whole question of providing financial assistance should be looked at, as some groups have benefited on an annual basis and she asked if a list of these groups could be drawn up. It was agreed that groups seeking funding should make their application prior to the Estimates being prepared in September.

On the proposition of Commr. Curley seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart it was decided to grant #150 to each of the following:

- a) St. Ita's Band, Loughrea and
- b) Loughrea Youth Development Project.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 9th day of July, 2001.

Paula Ryan
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 9/7/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. James Curley.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Annual Meeting: Minutes of Annual Meeting held on the 9/7/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Monthly Meeting: The minutes of the July monthly meeting were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Kelly-Stewart seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix.

Commr. Cronin congratulated An Cathaoirleach on the election of his brother Michael as Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council adding that it is unique for brothers to be elected as Cathaoirleach of two different bodies in the same year. Comms. Hynes and Gunter-Nix associated themselves with the congratulations to the Regan family.

Area Council Meeting: Commr. Loughnane informed the members that the Loughrea Area Councillors are meeting at 11a.m. on Wednesday July 18th. Commr. Loughnane stated that the Loughrea Town Plan and Disc Parking in Loughrea will be discussed at this meeting and he as Chairman of the Loughrea Area Councillors issued an invitation to the Loughrea Town Commissioners to attend this meeting. The members stated that mid-day meetings are not suitable as most of them are in employment and they asked if this meeting could be held at evening time. Commr. Loughnane pointed out that this is an Area Meeting and must go ahead as such, with regard to the proposed joint meetings of the Area Councillors and the Commissioners, the Town Commissioners could request that these meetings be held at evening time. On the proposition of Commr. Hynes seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix it was decided to write to Galway County Council seeking to have these meetings at evening time.

Loughrea Town Plan: In reply to Commr. Loughnane, Mr. Cullen stated that the Loughrea Town Plan was discussed at three Area Meetings and one full Co. Council meeting. Representations have been received and amendments proposed. These must be considered and it will then be put on view.

At this point Commr. Loughnane excused himself and left the meeting.

Motions submitted by Commr. Cronin:

"The pedestrian crossing on the Gort Road is considered to be extremely dangerous, what improvements can be put in place?"

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Commr. Cronin stated that originally there were two crossing one was removed, she felt that there should be flashing lights to indicate where the crossing is. Mr. Diskin stated that this is the first claim that he has heard

that the crossing is dangerous. The path is too narrow to erect signs on it and he could not get permission from the landowners to erect signs on their property, he will however check it out.

"Ramps on Boreencam – what action is going to take place to ensure that traffic is slowed down."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Commr. Cronin stated that this road is being used as a relief road through the town and is now becoming a crisis.

Mr. Diskin stated that this road is approximately 200m and its alliegment and width is such that he does not think that 30 m.p.h. can be exceeded.

Commr. Cronin stated that the problem with the wall on this road is being resolved. Mr. Diskin pointed out that if the road is widened it is more likely to be used. Mr. Diskin agreed to discuss this matter with the Director of Services for roads and to report back to the next meeting.

Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that there are quite a lot of roads being used as a bye-pass and these would also need to be looked at. Commr. Kelly-Stewart referred to the speed of traffic on Cross Street .

"The Westbridge – what decision has been taken to facilitate residents who have to continuously risk their lives in order to cross the road. The amount of traffic which is travelling through this town is intolerable. As a body we, the Town Commissioners have been too tolerant. This is a totally unacceptable situation and the question of the Bye-pass must be addressed now."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Commr. Cronin stated that it is like playing Russian Roulette trying to cross the road at this location. Mr. Diskin pointed out that the traffic warrant did not meet the requirements for a pedestrian crossing to be provided and sight distance is also a problem. The County Council will experiment with a "ghost" round-about which may or may not work. Commr. Hynes welcomed this positive approach by the County Council.

Public Toilets: Commr. Gunter-Nix asked if the toilets at the Westbridge could be removed or something more acceptable provided. Mr. Diskin stated that he will discuss this matter with the D.O.S.

Traffic Hazard: Commr. G. Burke referred to the traffic hazard that exists at the Caheronaun/Garrybreeda/The Hill junction. Mr. Diskin undertook to look into this matter.

Parking: Commr. Hynes stated the disc parking is under consideration for the County, with regard to Loughrea he felt that these bye-laws should be discussed by the members and also by the Chamber of Commerce. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that multi-story carparks should be considered. Commr. G. Burke asked where are the cars to go, disc parking could run business out of the town. Commr. Regan felt that disc parking could have a positive effect for the businesses of the town. Commr. Cronin suggested that the carparks on the outskirts of the town could be utilised more. Mr. Cullen stated that this matter will be discussed at the Area Council meeting on the 18/7/01, he will arrange for every member to get a copy of the bye-laws. He agreed with the opinion expressed by An Cathaoirleach. He also stated consideration would be given to residents of the streets effected.

Street Drinking: In reply to Commr. G. Burke, Mr. Cullen stated that the Commissioners have the power to introduce bye-laws in relation to drinking in public and he has written to the Chief Supt. Of the Garda Siochana in relation to same. He has discussed with the Law Agent the possibility of modifying the bye-laws adopted for Galway to suit Loughrea. Maps would have to be provided to indicate specific area.

Late Night Restaurants: Commr. G. Burke asked if bye-laws could be introduced to curtail the late opening of late night food outlets in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen agreed to discuss this matter with the Law Agent. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that discussion on these two bye-laws would justify a special meeting

Swimming Pool: Commr. G. Burke stated that he was surprised to read in a recent issue of the Connacht Tribune that a particular site in Loughrea is now favoured as the site for the proposed swimming pool and he asked Mr. Cullen if he could outline the up-to-date position of same. Mr. Cullen stated that he had asked the Planning Section to look at a particular site and that he will have a report for the September meeting.

Corry Park: Commr. Hynes stated that he had reports of a possible pollution problem at Corry Park and he asked if this matter could be investigate. He said that if Mr. Michael Madden of Cuscarrick was contacted he would point out the alleged problem. Commr. Cronin asked if the grass and nettles could be cut around the seats at the car-park and Corry Park as there are causing a nuisance to people who use them. Commr. G. Burke asked if there are any further plans for this area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 17th day of September, 2001.

James Regan TC
Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 17/9/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Matt Loughnane, Pat Hynes, James Curley.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, S.E.E., Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers. An Cathaoirleach included the victims of the American disaster together with the people from the locality who had died recently in the prayers.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 9/7/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. G. Burke .

Public Toilets: In reply to Commr. Gunter-Nix, Mr. Diskin stated that he had not an opportunity to discuss this matter with the appropriate D.O.S. as yet. Mr. Diskin stated that these toilets are in a bad state and in his opinion they could not be modernised.

Loughrea Town Plan: Commr. Cronin asked as to the present position of Loughrea Town Plan.

Mr. Cullen stated that the plan had been put on display, submissions were received and amendments were made. The amended plan will go on display for one month, possibly in October and it will then be considered by a meeting of the full Council.

Westbridge: Commr. Cronin asked when are the improvements going to be carried out at the Westbridge. Mr. Diskin stated that he is waiting on road contractors to re-surface the road, The mini-roundabout will then be put in place. He hopes that this work will be done within the next few weeks.

Street Drinking: In reply to Commr. G. Burke, Mr. Cullen stated that he is meeting the Superintendent of the Garda next week to discuss same. Members expressed different views as to whether a blanket ban or a ban for particular ^{AREAS} is required. It was agreed to defer this matter until after Mr. Cullen and the Superintendent meet.

With regard to late opening of restaurants, Mr. Cullen stated that this might be more difficult, he had discussed the matter with the Law Agent and it is possible that planning conditions could be involved.

Disc Parking: In reply to Commr. Hynes, Mr. Cullen stated that the County Council had drafted

Bylaws for the county, these will be considered at the next Area Meeting and they will also have to be put before a full meeting of the Council.

Nuisance on Gort Road: In reply to Commr. Hynes, Mr. Diskin stated that he had met Mr. Madden re alleged pollution on the Gort Road. Mr Madden had the impression that the drain from the Cuscarrick Housing estate was causing pollution, which is not the case. With regard to the presence of rats, Mr. Diskin could find no evidence to support this claim but some rat poison was laid.

Swimming Pool: Commr. Regan asked if there is any update on the swimming pool. Mr. Cullen stated that two things have emerged since the last meeting. One the rugby club had offered to make a site available and secondly he had written to the V.E.C. seeking confirmation as to the availability of a site and the cost of same, he has not as yet received a reply. He accepts that the V.E.C. is committed to providing a site. With regard to the Rugby Club, a feasibility study has to be carried on the site. Some of the members expressed disappointment with the delay in acquiring a site. Commr. G. Burke assured the meeting that the Swimming Pool Committee is constantly pursuing this project. Mr. Cullen stated that the work of the Swimming Pool Committee should not be underestimated, they are an excellent committee.

Thanks: Fr. Allen Burke in his letter of the 20/7/01 thanked the Commissioners and the people of the town for honouring his ordination to the priesthood.

Baffle: A letter from the Baffle group seeking financial assistance for their forthcoming Baffle Festival was read to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. O. Burke to make a donation of #25 to this group.

Estimates Meeting: It was agreed to hold the Estimates Meeting in conjunction with the Monthly meeting on the 15/10/01. This was proposed by Commr. G. Burke and seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Auditor's Report: The Town Clerk presented the Auditors Report in respect of year ending 31/12/01 to the meeting.

Motion submitted by Commr. Mary Gunter-Nix:

“At the September meeting of Loughrea Town Commissioners I will propose that the Commissioners seek a meeting with officials of Galway County Council to discuss the future of Loughrea Town Hall, as I understand that our application for Access funding has been unsuccessful. This meeting would discuss the possibility of developing this fine building as an Arts/Heritage/Museum/Music & Tourism Centre”
Commr G. Burke seconded this motion.

Commr. Cronin expressed her disappointment at the failure of this application to get funding and she wondered where Commr. Gunter-Nix had got her information. The application was an excellent application added Commr. Cronin and the vibes had been promising. Mr. Cullen confirmed that the application was not successful, he also was disappointed but it is now a case of going back to the drawing board.

People of the Year Awards: The following people were nominated for People of the Year Awards –

John Hume: proposed by Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

Sister Stanaclause Kennedy: proposed by Commr. Cronin seconded by Commr. Hynes.

Trespass at Long Point: Commr. G. Burke referred to the convoy of caravans that had parked for four day at the Long Point littering and damaging the area and rendering it a no go area for the people of the town and he asked what the County Council had done about it. The Town Clerk stated that the Council had acted immediately, the Law Agent had taken the required legal steps and was prepared to go to court on the Thursday to seek a Court Order to have these people removed, Thursday being the first available court day. The travellers left the area on the Wednesday evening. The members accepted that the County Council had acted as quickly as possible but were annoyed that the Town was held to ransom by these people. The members thanked Mr. Diskin and his staff for cleaning up the area so quickly.

On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach seconded by Commr. G. Burke it was agreed to request the Minister for Justice & Law Reform to introduce legislation that would prevent conveys of caravans from travelling through the country and parking in areas in such a manner that intimidates the residents of these areas.

Congratulations: Commr. G. Burke congratulated the Galway Senior and Minor Hurling teams on their display in the All-Ireland finals. The teams, though defeated were a credit to the county.

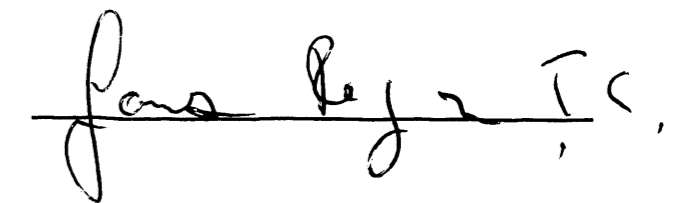
Commr. Gunter-Nix thanked the Town Clerk for having the foresight to apply for tickets for the game.

Town River: Commr. Kelly-Stewart asked the Town Engineer if he could have the Town River cleaned especially in the Lattimor Lodge area.

Fair Green: Commr. O. Burke asked if the amusements that use the Fair Green apply for permission. Mr. Diskin stated that these people apply to the Council for permission to use the Green. Permission is usually given subject to certain conditions one of which is that a deposit be lodged pending satisfactory restoration of the area.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 15th day of October, 2001.



Minutes of proceedings at the Estimates Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 15/10/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commsrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Pat Hynes, James Curley.

Officials: Jim Cullen Director of Services, John Diskin, S.E.E., Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Orla Burke.

Meeting opened with prayers.

In accordance with sections 9 and 10 of the County and City Management (Amendment) Act, 1955, Mr Jim Cullen, Director of Services, presented the Estimate of Expenses for the year 2002. Mr Cullen stated that the expenditure for 2002 is estimated at £47,890.00 with receipts of £7,972.00. The rate proposed for 2002 is £2.27 i.e. an increase of 6%.

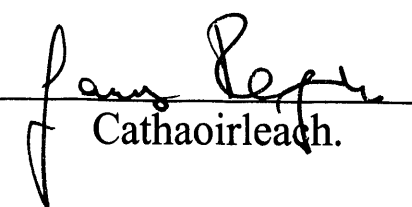
Commr. G. Burke referred to the forthcoming Special Olympics and asked if any provision is being made for these. Mr Cullen replied that he has made provision for various special cases and the Special Olympics will get priority.

After further discussion it was proposed by Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart and resolved that the Estimate of Expenses of the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the Financial Year ending 31st December, 2002, as set forth at A, B, C on the form of Estimate be adopted and that the Form of Estimate be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.

On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. J Curley it was also resolved that the Demand be made on Galway County Council by the Loughrea Town Commissioners for the sum of £39,918.00 for the Financial Year ending on the 31st December, 2002 and that the Form of Demand be signed by An Cathaoirleach and by the Town Clerk.

This concluded the business of the Estimates Meeting.

Signed this the 15th day of November, 2001


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 15/10/01

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commsrs. Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Pat Hynes, James Curley, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, S.E.E., Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: Commr. Orla Burke.

Conradh na Gaeilge Deputation: Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Padraig O Baoill and Eoghan Mac Cormaic of Conradh na Gaeilge addressed the meeting.

Mr O Baoill referred to the survey of Irish taken in the Loughrea Area and its progress to date. He stated that there is solid support for the Irish language in the area and he appealed to the Commissioners for their support. Mr Mac Cormaic thanked the meeting for receiving them. He referred to the forthcoming conference in Cloughaun Castle and he invited all the members to come along. He also mentioned the Gael Scoils in the area and how these had created three full-time jobs. The members assured Mr O Baoill and Mr Mac Cormaic of their support and wished them well with their project.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on the 17/9/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. Curley.

Public Toilets: Arising from the minutes Commr. Curley asked if the public toilets could be relocated. Mr Diskin stated that public toilets need to be in a high profile location otherwise they would be deemed undesirable. Mr. Cullen stated that Council Estimates are now being prepared and he would be pressing for improvements to the public toilet in Loughrea which are high on the priority list.

Street Drinking: In reply to Commr. G. Burke, Mr. Cullen stated that he had discussed this matter with the Gardai. The gardai would favour a by-law that would incorporate all of the town. Mr. Cullen stated that certain criteria must be met to introduce bylaws, he hopes to have a bylaw prepared and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Town Plan: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that he understands that the Town Plan will be ready to go on display by the end of the week. Commr. Loughnane stated that he had attended a meeting of the County Council and the N.R.A. today and the N.R.A. now proposed to change the location of the proposed bypass of Loughrea. Commr. Hynes stated that he was not notified of this meeting. Both Mr. Diskin and Mr. Cullen stated that they were not aware of any proposed changes.

Travellers: Commr. G. Burke referred to the convoy of travellers that had occupied the Long Point and he asked if there was any reply to the request for legislation to be introduced to govern convoys such as these. The Town Clerk stated that the request was acknowledged. It was decided on the proposition of Commr. Burke seconded by Commr. Curley to request the A.M.A.I. to place this matter on their agenda at their next meeting.

Westbridge: In reply to Commr. Cronin, Mr. Diskin stated that the roundabout at the Westbridge is still on target. He had discussions with the gardai and it would appear that the road to Dolphin Street via Morrissey's house would have to be made one-way.

Swimming Pool: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that he is still awaiting confirmation from the V.E.C. regarding the site for the swimming pool, the site at the rugby club is being investigated. Commr. Loughnane stated that if the V.E.C. site is approved then in order to avoid traffic chaos a direct road to the N6 will have to be provided.

Pay Increase: In accordance with Circular Letter EL /112001 of the 23/9/01 an increase of 5.5% was approved for employees of Loughrea Town Commissioners under Clause 4 of the P.P.F. This was proposed by Commr. Burke and seconded by Commr. Gunter-Nix.

Motions submitted by Commr. A. Cronin:

a) "I propose that Galway County Council meet with people representing the views of the community with a view to setting in place a structure to enable the Town Hall to serve the evergrowing needs for Cinema/Theatre/Arts/Culture Centre"

An Cathaoirleach stated that he had discussed the Town Hall recently with the County Manager. The County Manager intends to have a plan drawn up for the Town Hall and to discuss same with all interested parties. An Cathaoirleach appealed to the meeting to defer discussion on this matter until such time as the meeting with the County Manager takes place. The meeting agreed to this.

a) "I propose that the Minister for Health be contacted again regarding mammograms etc. and screening for cancer."

This motion was seconded by Commr. Kelly-Stewart.

Commr. Loughnane referred to a letter which the Commissioners had received last June from the Minister regarding this matter he proposed that in his opinion the Minister be reminded of contents of this letter and that a copy of the Minister's letter be sent to the Western Health Board. This was proposed by Commr. Kelly-Stewart and seconded by Commr. Loughnane.

Litter: Commr. Kelly-Stewart referred to the amount of litter that has appeared in the Cross Street area especially since the schools re-opened, she said that the Litter Warden is seldom seen in this area. Commr. Burke stated that recently a man was fined for allowing litter in his front garden despite the fact that he had not put it there.

Mr. Diskin stated that the law stipulates that if litter appears on private property then the property owner becomes responsible. With regard to the time spent in Loughrea by the Litter Warden, Mr. Diskin explained that there is a Litter/Traffic Warden employed but he has to serve a wide area.

Commr. Gunter-Nix proposed that Galway County Council be requested to employ a Litter Warden full time for all towns in the county, this was seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

Commr. Kelly-Stewart proposed that a letter be sent to the Principal of the two post primary schools seeking their assistance in getting their students to be more litter conscious. This was seconded by Commr. Cronin.

One Stop Shop: Commr. Hynes referred to the success of the one stop shop type of Co. Council office in Ballinasloe and he expressed the hope that when the new offices are provided in Loughrea a similar facility will be available in Loughrea.

Driving Test Centre: Commr. ^{REGAN, C.} Burke referred to the difficulty people who are doing their driving test have in getting a parking place in order to call into the Driving Test Centre, he proposed that the Dept. of the Environment be requested to get a more suitable site for this office.

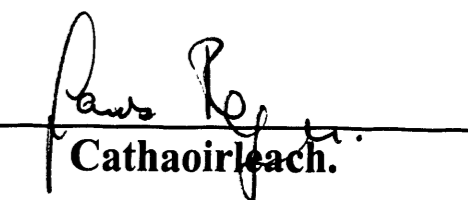
Civic Reception: Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that An Taoiseach is visiting Loughrea on the 23/11/01 and she suggested that he be afforded a civic reception. This was acceptable to the meeting and it was left to the Fianna Fail members to arrange same.

Area/Commissioners Joint Meetings: Commr. Burke stated that he was not happy with the way the joint meeting of the Commissioner and the Area Councillors was conducted. He felt that everything was rushed and he was disappointed that some of the Councillors left the meeting so early. Commr. Burke's view was not shared by the other members or officials who had attended this meeting.

Sisters of Mercy: The Town Clerk stated that the Sisters of Mercy will on the 24/11/01 be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the arrival in Loughrea. He had after discussion with An Cathaoirleach arranged for a scroll to be provided to commemorate the occasion.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 12th day of November, 2001.


Cathaoirleach.

*ADDRESS To Sisters of Mercy on the occasion of their 150th
ANNIVERSARY in Loughrea*

Dear Sisters, we the Loughrea Town Commissioners, on behalf of the people of our town, congratulate you on this the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of your Community in Loughrea.

Since your arrival in Loughrea, you have over the years taught our children, been friends of our poor and comforters of our sick and troubled.

It would indeed now be remiss of us not to avail of this opportunity of Acknowledging in words what we owe to you in deeds of goodness and mercy.

We pray that God may bless you in this life and thereafter that He may fill you with his Grace, the gift you prize most of all.

Sign By The Town Commissioners of Loughrea on this the 24th Day of October 2001.

**James Regan TC Cathaoirleach
Orla Burke TC
Anna Cronin TC
Mary Gunter-Nix TC
Maura Kelly-Stewart TC
Gabriel Burke TC
James Curley TC
Pat Hynes TC
Matt Loughnane TC**

Alexis Marmion Town Clerk

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners Held on the 12/11/01 in Naomh Brendain Credit Union Offices.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Pat Hynes, James Curley, Matt Loughnane,

Officials: Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Apology: John Diskin, Town Engineer.

Before the business of the meeting was discussed, Mrs. Maura Loughnane and Mr. Mattie Madden of Naomh Brendain Credit Union welcomed the members and wished them well with their meeting.

Commr. Loughnane proposed a vote of sympathy to Mrs. Maura Loughnane on the recent death of her father.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes of Estimates Meeting : Minutes of Estimates Meeting held on the 15/10/01 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr Curley.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting: Commr. G. Burke referred to the minute dealing with the proposed relocation of the Driving Test Centre and stated that it was An Cathaoirleach and not he who had proposed the relocation of this centre. This minute was amended accordingly . The minutes were then adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix seconded by Commr. O. Burke.

Visit of An Taoiseach: Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern will visit the Loughrea area on the 23/11/01 and she proposed that he be given a Civic Reception, this was unanimously agreed. Commr. Gunter-Nix proposed the new library as the venue for this reception. Commr. Orla Burke proposed the Credit Union offices as the venue for the reception. The consensus of the meeting favoured the Credit Union offices as the venue and it was agreed to have the reception there.

Driving Test Centre: Commr. Loughnane referred to the decision taken at the last meeting

to seek a new location for the driving test centre in Loughrea and he stated that he wished to dis-associate himself from this decision. A letter from the Driving Testing Section of the Dept. of the Environment stating that it is seeking an alternative site for the centre was read. This letter sought the assistance of the Commissioners in locating an alternative site.

Sisters of Mercy: Commr. G. Burke complimented An Cathaoirleach and the Town Clerk on the quality and the wording of the scroll, which was presented to The Sisters of Mercy on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of their coming to Loughrea.

Street Drinking Bye Law: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that he hoped to have the draft bye law for the next meeting and he will circulate a copy of the proposed draft byelaw to the members prior to this meeting.

Litter: Commr. Kelly-Stewart referred to the amount of dog excrement that is on Main Street and Moore Street and she asked if anything could be done to put a stop to this. The Town Clerk stated that he would discuss this alleged problem with the Town Engineer.

Mobile Breast Screening: The Western Health Board in its letter dated 31/10/01 set out the present position with regard to breast screening in its area.

Trespass by Travellers: In reply to a request from the Board to the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, the Minister forwarded his reply to Parliamentary Questions on this matter copies of which were circulated to each member. Commr. Loughnane remarked that it would appear that the Gardai have power to deal with this problem under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994. On the proposition of Commr. G. Burke seconded by Commr. O. Burke it was decided to ask the Gardai why they had not enforced the 1994 Act when travellers had parked recently at the Long Point.

Chamber of Commerce: It was unanimously agreed to pay the #50 membership fee for the year 2000 to Loughrea Chamber of Commerce.

Motion submitted by Commr. James Curley:

“That Galway County Council consider providing a site for the Loughrea Swimming Pool on its lands at Knockanima. (Long Point)”

Commr Curley agreed to defer this motion until the two sites under consideration are fully investigated.

Bus Stops: Commr. O. Burke stated that the buses are not using the bus bays in Loughrea and traffic is held up as a result. Mr. Cullen agreed to take this matter up with the Town Engineer.

Commr. Loughnane stated that car parking spaces are not available in Loughrea and Loughrea had not fared well with regard to the provision of car parks, he added that we should look for a report from Galway Co. Council for the next meeting with regard to the provision of parking in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen agreed that there is a need for car parking in Loughrea especially long stay parking.

Housing: In reply to a query from Commr. Hynes, Mr. Cullen stated that the Council is exploring plans for the provision of affordable housing in the Loughrea Area and hoped that applicants under the scheme could be facilitated within the next six months or so.

Mr. Cullen also stated that the Council is constantly pursuing land for housing.

Loughrea Regional Water Scheme: Commr. Loughnane stated that we should be pressing for the completion of this scheme now that the Portumna/Killimor area are no longer part of this scheme.

Local Government Act: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that under this Act the title for Loughrea Town Commissioners will change to Loughrea Town Council. It will be necessary to have stationary etc. changed with effect from the 1/1/02.

Town Clerk: Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that the Town Clerk, Alexis Marmion is retiring at the end of the year after having served as Town Clerk for 35 years. Miss Imelda Deely will replace him.

Mr. Cullen, Board members and Mr. Ken Kelly, Press Representative paid tribute to Mr. Marmion for his dedication and courtesy over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement. Mr. Marmion replied in a suitable manner.

The members and officials welcomed Miss Deely, who was present at the meeting, and wished he well on her new appointment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of December 2001.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at Special Meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 23/11/01 in Naomh Brendain Credit Union Offices.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan,

Members: Commrs. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Jimmy Curley, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer, Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk.

Special Guest: An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D.

An Cathaoirleach welcomed all present and stated that the purpose of this special meeting is to accord a Civic Reception to An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. He welcomed An Taoiseach and thanked him for his work over the past four years. He acknowledged An Taoiseach's efforts to bring peace to our entire island. An Cathaoirleach referred to the upgrading of the Loughrea Sewerage Works, the provision of a new library and garda station and he thanked An Taoiseach for providing the money for these works, however he felt that there is still more to be done. He felt that Loughrea needed more industry and he urged An Taoiseach to use his influence to get the IDA to re-consider its policy of directing most industries towards Galway City. He also requested An Taoiseach to use his influence to secure the Loughrea bypass and the completion of the Loughrea Sewerage Scheme.

An Cathaoirleach then invited An Taoiseach to become the first person to sign the Visitors Book.

An Taoiseach in reply thanked the Commissioners for honouring him with a Civic Reception. He thanked and congratulated the Commissioners for their work on behalf of the community. He encouraged them to build on the past. He said that employment would also be a big issue. He referred to the reduction in the national debt and the huge increases in exports during his term in office. With regard to decentralisation he stated that he always trying to get people to move out of the larger cities but it is difficult to get people to agree to move out. He referred to the need for a better road structure to enable people to move

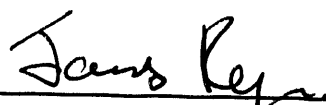
around more easily. He assured the Commissioners of his continued support for their work on behalf of the community.

An Taoiseach referred to the pending retirement of the Town Clerk, Mr. Alexis Marmion after over forty years in the public service. He thanked and congratulated Mr. Marmion and wished him good health and happiness in his retirement.

Presentation: At this stage An Cathaoirleach presented a model of a boat and fisherman, depicting Loughrea's lake, to An Taoiseach.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 10th day of December, 2001.


Cathaoirleach.

Minutes of proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held on the 10/12/01.

Cathaoirleach: Commr. James Regan.

Members: Comms. Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly-Stewart, Mary Gunter-Nix, Gabriel Burke, Jimmy Curley and Pat Hynes.

Officials: Donal O'Donoghue, County Manager, Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer. Alexis Marmion, Town Clerk. Miss Imelda Deely incoming Town Clerk was also present.

Apology: Commr. Matt Loughnane.

Meeting opened with prayers

Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 12/11/01 and of the special meeting held on the 23/11/01 were adopted and sign as correct on the proposition of Commr. Gunter-Nix, seconded by Commr. G. Burke.

Housing: Arising from the Commr. Hynes sought information with regard to the Affordable Housing and "Turnkey Housing" Schemes in Loughrea.. An Cathaoirleach queried the necessity for a sitting County Councillor to raise these matters at a Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Cullen explained that these are options which the County Council has to ensure an adequate supply of Houses as the demand generally exceeds the supply. Affordable houses can be sold under the market value. With regard to the "Turnkey Scheme" this is a scheme where the Council can acquire houses from a developer in a housing scheme and make them available to applicants for council housing. Commr. Cronin remarked that she hope that this scheme would be spread across the board and not confined to one area. Mr. Cullen stated that it is council policy to get a proper social mix. Commr. Gunter-Nix stated that the County Council has information leaflets on its Housing policy and she suggested that these be supplied to the members. Mr. Cullen agreed to see to this.

Swimming Pool: Commr. Curley asked if there is any update with regard to the swimming pool site and his suggested that a site be provided in the Long Point area. Mr. Cullen point out that the Long Point is a Special Area of Conservation and as such there could be planning difficulty there. There are still a couple of sites in mind, the Swimming Pool Committee had met recently and he will be in touch with them in the near future.

Sisters of Mercy: A thank you card for the Illuminates Address which the Commissioners had presented to the Sisters of Mercy on the 150 anniversary of their coming to Loughrea was read. Sister Ita on behalf of the sisters thanked the Board and said they were delighted with the address.

Trespass at Long Point: The A.M.A.I. in its letter of the 21/11/01 acknowledged receipt of the Board's letter regarding the incursion by travellers at Long Point. The A.M.A.I. informed the Board that the matter was discussed at a recent Executive Meeting and as a result they are bringing the content of the letter to the Minister for Justice and Law Reform, they will keep the Board inform of the outcome.

Supt. M. Lally informed the meeting in his letter of the 21/11/01 that the Gardai could not take action against the travellers at the Long Point under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 as they were not in breach of this Act. Comms. Hynes and G. Burke expressed dissatisfaction with this reply..

Mr. O'Donoghue expressed the opinion that the law is weak in this area and added that the Government is considering it at present.

Mr. Diskin stated that he wished to acknowledge the assistance given to him by the gardai when he was trying to deal with this problem.

Price Increases Commr. G. Burke stated that Loughrea, as an Euro Town should not condone price increases in the run up to the introduction of the Euro. Recently the Vintners had decided to increase the price of the pint and he felt that this should be brought to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce. Commr. Curley stated that although he is a publican himself he agreed with Commr. Burke, he had opposed the increase without success.

An Cathaoirleach agreed to raise the matter at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-morrow night.

Presentation: An Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. O'Donoghue, County Manager and Mrs. Peggy Marmion, wife of the Town Clerk to the meeting. An Cathaoirleach stated that this is a special occasion as it is the last meeting at which Lex Marmion will officiate at as Town Clerk. He also welcomed Miss Imelda Deely the incoming Town Clerk and wished her well on her new appointment. He then ask Mr. O'Donoghue to make a presentation to Mr. Marmion. Mr. O'Donoghue paid tribute to Lex, acknowledging his outstanding contribution to Galway Co. Co. and Loughrea Town Commissioners. He wished him health and happiness in his retirement. He then presented an Illuminated Address to Lex. The Commissioners, .Jim Cullen, Director of Services, John Diskin, Town Engineer and Ken Kelly, Press Representative, joined with the County Manager in paying tribute to the Town Clerk. Commr. Gunter-Nix presented the Town Clerk with a framed photograph of himself and the Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D.

Commr. Hynes presented Peggy Marmion with a bouquet of flowers.

The Town Clerk on behalf of his wife and himself thanked the members and officials for the generosity and for their courtesy over the years, he welcomed his successor Miss Imelda Deely and wished her success and happiness in her appointment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed this the 14 day of January, 2002.


Cathaoirleach.

**Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 14/1/2002
in the Credit Union Offices.**

Cathaoirleach: James Regan.

Members: Cllrs. Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Anna Cronin and Maura Kelly Stewart.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes

The meeting of the monthly meeting held on the 10/12/2001 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Nix.

Arising from the minutes Cllr. Cronin thanked all involved in arranging the presentation to Lexie Marmion and also his retirement function in the Meadow Court Hotel. It was greatly appreciated by the Marmion family.

Cllr. G. Burke asked the Cathaoirleach if he had raised the question of increased drink prices with the Chamber of Commerce at its meeting on the 11/12/2001. An Cathaoirleach stated he had and the general opinion of the meeting was that this was the Vintners business and not a concern of the Chamber of Commerce.

Representational Payment

Mr. Cullen referred to the details of the representational payment for Councillors, which had recently been introduced. He stated that payment would be processed and arranged by Galway County Council through its General Purposes department. He requested that Councillors submit the various details that had been sought relating to taxation so that the matter could be advanced as quickly as possible.

Local Government Act 2001

Mr. Cullen informed the Councillors that with the coming into force of Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2001 on 1st January 2002 it was now open to Town Councils to decide if they wished to have the titles of Cathaoirleach/Leas Cathaoirleach or Mayor/Deputy Mayor. In response to inquiries for Councillors, he said that those titles were the only titles that could be used but there was no timelimit or constraint as to when a decision on the matter should be made. The Cathaoirleach stated that he was satisfied with the existing arrangement but it was open to the Town Council as a whole to decide. The view was expressed that the use of Mayor as the title would add status to the position. It was agreed to defer the matter to see what trend emerged from other Councils over the coming few months.

Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places – Draft Bye Law 2001

Cllr. G. Burke welcomed the draft byelaws, which had been circulated in advance. He said it was an example of Loughrea Town Council showing leadership in tackling a social problem and anti-social behavior. Cllr. Cronin expressed some concern about the wording of number 3 and 4 in the byelaws relating to "intention" and had some reservation on the enforcement of this provision. In response to an enquiry from Cllr. Curley, Mr. Cullen stated that, prior to framing the draft byelaws, consultation had taken place with the Gardaí who favored the application of the byelaws for the entire area rather than specified locations. He said also that if approved, the byelaws would go on public display for a period of one month to allow interested parties to make submissions, following which they would again go before the Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke, seconded by Cllr. Loughnane and agreed that the Draft Byelaws be approved and placed on public display.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was read to the meeting.

Letter read from St. Brigid's Vocational School regarding litter in Moore Street/Cross Street. Representative from Environment Section to talk to the three schools on a phased basis.

Resolution from Balbriggan Town Commissioners as follows:-

"To ask Balbriggan Town Commissioners to support a motion calling on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Cowen to seek the release of information from the British Government relating to the Dublin Monaghan Bombings in 1974"

Cllr. Cronin proposed and Cllr. Hynes seconded it.

Motion received from Fingal County Council as follows:-

"That this Council calls on the Government not to progress with the Draft Regulations which would remove the requirement for planning permission for the erection of mobile masts."

Town clerk to write to Planning Section and see what is position with regard to planning permission is it needed or otherwise for mobile phone masts.

Letter from An Taoiseach to An Cathaoirleach thanking him for the civic reception on the 23/11/2001.

A.M.A.I. - Spring Seminar 2002 in the Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry, on 15th and 16th February, 2002. Cllr. Regan and Cllr. Loughnane are two nominated members.

L.A.M.A. 19th Annual Conference in the Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th April, 2002.

A.O.B

Town Hall - Cllr. Hynes asked Mr. Cullen, Director of Services when the plans for the town hall will be available. Mr. Cullen replied that the National Building Agency was preparing submissions on many projects in Loughrea including the Town Hall. He hoped that consultation would take place with the various groups shortly. He said that any plans drawn up would be subject to funding being made available.

County Home - Cllr. Cronin asked that there should be no reduction in the bed complement in St. Brendan's Home and that it should not be downgraded to an 80 bed unit. Proposed by Cllr. Cronin and seconded by Cllr. Hynes.

Cllr. Loughnane stated that there should be no reduction in beds whilst there was a waiting list and that people were waiting for a patient to die before they could get a bed in St. Brendan's. Proposed by Cllr. Loughnane and seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart.

Cllr. Nix explained that the Western Health Board was anxious to modernise the building upstairs but it was an old building and there was no lift and it would not be practical. The plan is to accommodate patients in one storey modern units.

This concluded the business.

Signed this the 11 day of February, 2002.

James Regan
Cathaoirleach

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 11/2/2002 in Council Offices, Barrack Street, Loughrea.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. James Regan.

Councillors: Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly Stewart.

The Meeting opened with prayers.

On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach and with the agreement of the Councillors it was decided to take Item No. 2 on the Agenda.

County Development Strategy

Mr. Frank Dawson, Director of Community & Enterprise circulated a presentation paper dated 11th February, regarding the Draft County Development Strategy. He outlined the background to the strategy explaining that a process of consultation was being undertaken prior to the adoption of the strategy by the County Development Board. This meeting with the Loughrea Town Council was part of the consultation process and he asked that the Town Council give consideration to the Draft Strategy and that their views and observations would be welcome.

He explained that the Strategy is drafted from key issues raised by the Board members, its working groups, the Community Forum (313 members) and issues raised at the Consultative Conference held in May, 2001. Among the key objectives are the creation of an agreed set of visions and goals for the county, involvement of community and voluntary sector in decision making, identification of gaps and overlaps in provision of services and promotion of social inclusion measures.

He outlined the eight key themes included in the Strategy including access to services, transport, a healthy economic base, geographic spread of economic development, opportunities for work and learning, celebrating cultural diversity, a living Gaeltacht, Vibrant Island Communities and referred to the actions included in the strategy to support these themes.

He said that the closing date for submissions was February 15th, following which any necessary redrafting of the strategy would take place. It would be considered by the County Development Board and presented to the full council on 25th March. The strategy must be adopted by April 2002.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors welcomed the Draft Strategy and thanked Mr. Dawson for his presentation. Some members enquired if the closing date could be extended as it gave very little time to forward submissions on such an important document. Mr. Dawson said it would be possible to do so. It was agreed that the Councillors would meet on 19th February, 2002, in Mary Duffy's house for 7.30p.m so as the Councillors could have an input and forward recommendations as a group on the Strategy.

Minutes

The meeting of the monthly meeting held on the 14/1/2002 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Cllr. Nix seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart.

Matters arising from the minutes –

Local Government Act, 2001.

Cllr. Hynes referred to the title of An Cathaoirleach and stated that as other Local Authorities had already decided to opt for the title of Mayor that Loughrea Town Council should now proceed to have the title Mayor instead of Cathaoirleach. This was supported by Cllr. Cronin. Cllr. Nix said that the title of

Cathaoirleach was suitable and appropriate and should remain. Cllr. G. Burke said that there would now be five Mayors in Galway and did not agree with change.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hynes and seconded by Cllr. Curley that the title should be changed to Mayor. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

FOR – Cllrs. Hynes, Curley, Loughnane, Cronin and Kelly Stewart -5 votes.

AGAINST - Cllrs Nix, O. Burke and G. Burke - 3 votes.

ABSTENSION – Cllr. James Regan.

An Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried. Cllr. Hynes said he wanted to congratulate Mayor Regan on being the first Mayor of Loughrea Town.

Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places - Draft Bye Law 2001.

Councillors welcomed the progress made in relation to this item and asked where the draft by law was on display. They were informed by the Town Clerk of the different locations and that the closing date for receipt of submissions was the 1/3/2002. Cllr. Loughnane asked what the procedure was after the closing date and Mr. Cullen informed him that it would be brought before the March meeting of the Council for discussion.

Increase in prices

Mayor Regan said that he had asked the Town Clerk to circulate the minutes of the Chamber of Commerce meeting to all of the members in relation to the increase in the price of drink for members to read for themselves.

Motion from Fingal County Council regarding masts

Cllr. Loughnane said that the public were concerned about masts with regard to health implications. While accepting the need for masts for communication purposes, he said their location should always be removed from residential development and this should be included in the County Council Development Plan. Mr. Cullen stated that it was open to the Town Council as part of the review of the County Development Plan to request that a submission from the Town Council to that effect be considered.

Motions submitted by Cllr. Cronin.

(a)“I propose that the situation in St. Brendan’s Home be examined in view of the fact that the figures clearly show a startling reduction in the number of beds. Also the recent statement which was printed in the Galway Advertiser referring to various hospitals in the county, described St. Brendans in terms of “relocation”. It is humane when people are ill/old that we retain the excellent facility that is St. Brendan’s in the heart of our town and that people are not forced to travel to other towns/cities in which to end their days. This situation, if allowed to continue, is at variance with community planning. A secondary consideration and of lesser importance, but nevertheless of great commercial value, is the benefit which is derived on a daily basis to the business sector. St. Brendans is one of our biggest employers in Loughrea and therefore the situation must be addressed as a matter of urgency from all perspectives.”

Mayor Regan stated that arising from a previous meeting of the Town Council a letter had been sent to the Western Health Board and that no discussion would take place on this item until an official reply was received.

(b) "I propose that we express a vote of solidarity with the members of Loughrea Chamber of Commerce who were forced, through sheer desperation to take to the streets in order to procure a by pass. We, the Councillors must take a very firm line and in order to ensure that the Chamber will not have to resort to this again, request that every effort be made to commence work on this long overdue project. A commitment was given to us some months ago that work would begin in March."

Cllr. Cronin proposed and Cllr. Kelly Stewart seconded it.

Cllr. Cronin said that the Chamber of Commerce took to the streets in sheer desperation when the Government failed to address the issue and honour their commitment to provide a by-pass for Loughrea. Cllr Nix said that she could not agree with this motion and said that the action taken only added to peoples frustration and did nothing to advance the cause of the Loughrea by-pass. Cllr. G. Burke also said that he could not agree with this motion and wondered what would have happened if the emergency services were needed and unable to get through. Cllr. Loughnane said that all of the official statements seemed to imply that the landowners were the stumbling block and he offered himself as a mediator if it would help to expedite matters.

Mr. Cullen referred to a letter dated 29th January, 2002 from the NRA to the County Manager which indicated that if the necessary lands for the by-pass could be acquired by agreement by August 2002 then it could be possible to advance the advertisement of a stand alone contract for the scheme also this year.

© "I propose that we adopt a pro-active approach regarding parking facilities in Loughrea and investigate the potential areas."

Cllr. Cronin proposed and Cllr. Kelly Stewart seconded it.

Mr. Cullen said that negotiations were taking place with regard to the acquisition of a site for carparking.

Correspondence:

Copy of correspondence received Cearbhall E. O'Meara, Co-Ordinator of the Barcelona Declaration Project in Galway, for people with disability, was circulated to all the members issuing an open invitation to any of the Councillors who wished to attend the launch on Friday 1st March, 2002 in the Ardilaun Hotel, Galway.

Vote of Congratulations -

Cllr. Hynes proposed a vote of congratulations to Mrs. Delia Coen (nee Hynes) on reaching the age of 100 on 11th February, 2002. This was supported by the councillors.

On the proposition of Cllr. Nix, Berni Smith was congratulated on receiving an Arts Award for the Loughrea Youth Development Project, under a competition held by Galway County Council in the Loughrea Area, and also for receiving one of the Rehab Awards for Person of the Year.

On the proposition Cllr. Loughnane, St. Raphael's College was congratulated on winning the All Ireland Boys Volleyball match in Mountmellick.

Housing

The Mayor sought information from Mr. Cullen, with regard to Affordable Housing in Caheronaun. Mr. Cullen stated that the Council was in negotiations to acquire sites in that area for housing development. The development would be used to meet the housing demand in Loughrea. Recently notices had been published inviting persons who may be eligible under the affordable housing scheme to apply for consideration. There had been quite a good response. He said that overall the council was obliged to use the various options available to them to accommodate people in need of housing including Affordable, Social and Voluntary Schemes. Cllr. Loughnane said he was worried about a scheme of social housing at this location as a lot of people had purchased private houses in the area and would depreciate the value of their houses.

Swimming Pool.

Cllr. Hynes asked if there was an update on the provision of a swimming pool for Loughrea and was informed by Mr. Cullen that a meeting was arranged for later that week on the matter. He mentioned that some of the sites mentioned had problems with them and the site at Long Point was in a Special Area of Conservation and would have planning difficulties.

A.O.B.

Cllr. Kelly Stewart raised the question of flooding at Coscorrigh recently. She also mentioned the playing area of the Fairgreen that it was very dangerous and requested soft macadam around the swings. She also welcomed the Community Wardens and hoped that it would put an end to litter and dogs fouling on the streets.

Cllr. G. Burke proposed footpath from Bride Street to Cigna and this was seconded by Cllr. O. Burke.

Cllr. Loughnane proposed public lighting to the west side of the town boundary and Cllr. G. Burke seconded it.

This concluded the business.

Signed this 6 - day of March, 2002.

Mayor James Ryan

**MEETING OF LOUGHREA TOWN COUNCIL
REVIEW GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD - DRAFT STRATEGY**

February 19th 2002, 7.30pm - Loughrea Area Offices

Present: Cllr. James Regan (Chairperson), Cllr. Mary Gunter-Nix, Cllr. Maura Kelly Stewart, Cllr. Pat Hynes, Cllr. Anna Cronin, Cllr. Gabriel Burke

In attendance: Aine Mellett, Community and Enterprise Unit, Galway County Council

The purpose of the meeting was to review the draft strategy document, which has been prepared by Galway County Development Board. The Town Councillors commented on the following areas of the strategy document:

1. Theme 3: Access to Services

- The redevelopment of rail services is to be particularly welcomed in the document and the proposed establishment of the Transport Co-ordinating Group in the County. Loughrea would greatly benefit from the redevelopment of the Attymon to Loughrea line.
- The design of new roads should incorporate bus lanes to reduce travel time and encourage use of bus services.
- A range of transport options should be examined and planned to include the use of marine/waterways for the transportation of heavy goods.
- The provision of rural transport services is essential in order to connect people living in rural areas with services in towns such as Loughrea.
- The environmental impact of high levels of traffic is a key concern for towns such as Loughrea.
- There should be greater co-ordination between the Local Authority and telecommunication companies so that roads are not dug-up continually by different service providers to put in place the necessary cabling etc.
- Councillors welcomed the idea of preparing Local Area Strategies in each electoral area and suggested that a similar profiling of services be undertaken in centres of population such as Loughrea. Greater co-ordination at local level may facilitate agencies to sharing of facilities with the possibility of developing "one-stop-shops" in key centres around the County. In Loughrea, the Western Health Board's services are located in a number of premises in the town, which causes confusion for the general public.
- Local Area Strategies should also investigate the potential for new local services, for example, the potential for developing services at St. Brendan's Hospital in Loughrea.

Theme 4: Investing in Communities

- Provision for community centres, play spaces and other amenities should be made in planning all new housing developments.
- In the development of social and affordable housing, the provision of estate management support and training for tenants is essential. Tenancy agreements also need to be more stringently enforced.
- Repair, upgrading and maintenance of local authority housing on an ongoing basis essential to ensure that housing is kept to an adequate standard.
- Increased community policing is key to achieving safer communities.
- Driving safety classes should be part of the school curriculum to contribute to greater safety in the roads.
- Concern was expressed about the lack of co-ordination which, exists between agencies funding the development of childcare services. At present the following agencies have responsibilities in this area: the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, City and County Childcare Committee and Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. For groups seeking funding and support to develop childcare facilities, they are required approach each agency separately for assistance.

Theme 5: Opportunities for Work and Learning

- Training should be flexible to cater for people's needs, for example the need to develop home based learning methods.

Theme 6: Managing our Wealth of Physical and Natural Resources

- Greater support and resources are required to enable communities to develop amenities for tourism, leisure and recreation.

- Pollution of the countryside was raised as an issue - silage wrapping, increasing levels of phosphates from sewage systems, air pollution. The need to establish waste management and waste minimisation programmes was seen as a priority for the County.

Theme 7: Celebrating Cultural Diversity

- On reviewing the document members present felt that this section did not emphasise enough the mix of cultures currently residing in the County. A recent study conducted by the Galway Youth Federation in Loughrea found that children of 15 nationalities were attending local schools.
- The development of arts and cultural resource centres was seen as important to the overall development of villages and towns in the County.

Theme 8: A Healthy Economic Base

- Councillors predict that Loughrea town has the potential to grow to a population of approximately 8,000 which, requires additional zoning of commercial and residential lands. Towns like Loughrea have the potential to attract decentralised government services (an application has already been submitted to government on this matter). The town also has the potential to offer key local services not only to the residents of Loughrea but to a wider rural hinterland.
- Loughrea has the potential to develop many tourism products i.e. historical events, links to Coole Park, St. Ruth, the battle of Aughrim, traditional skills, music and culture. Local communities must be resourced to research and prepare local promotional and marketing materials.

Key priorities listed as part of the discussion include:

- Access to essential services
- Addressing social inclusion
- Family support - support for couples experiencing marital/relationship breakdown
- Development of arts facilities and resources.
- Addressing homelessness for young people

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 11th March, 2002 in Council Library, Church Street, Loughrea.

Mayor : James Regan.

Councillors: Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly Stewart.

The Meeting opened with prayers.

The Minutes of the Monthly meeting held on the 11/2/2002 were adopted and signed correct on the proposition of Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Nix.

Matters arising from the minutes:

In relation to Loughrea by pass Cllr Cronin stated that a reference by Cllr. Nix at the last meeting to electioneering by the Chamber of Commerce was not included in the minutes. Mayor Regan said that a general discussion had taken place on the issue concerned and it was not necessary to record in the minutes every comment or remark made. Mr. Cullen said that minutes are a record of decisions taken and not a verbatim report of every comment that was made. He felt that if every comment was recorded word for word that the minutes would be the poorer for it and would be irrelevant in future years if the public were looking at the minute book. Mayor Regan said that the minutes are a synopsis of proceedings. Cllr. Nix stated the Government statement in relation to the by pass was true and everything was on schedule and she stood by the comments made at the previous meeting. Cllr. G. Burke, stated that he did not support the motion proposed by Cllr. Cronin previously and supported Cllr. Nix.

Swimming Pool.

Cllr. Curley said that when you listen to the local radio you hear that Ballinasloe and Tuam have been sanctioned for swimming pools and that Loughrea does not seem to have any clout. He said that Loughrea were nine years waiting for a swimming pool and did not seem to be making any progress. Mayor Regan said that lack of information on what was going on is the greatest concern in the town. Mr. Cullen stated that Tuam and Ballinasloe were lucky because they had a site and it was more straightforward and funding could be approved. He said that he had approval in principle from Department of the Environment to the project and that he was hopeful that a site would be established very soon. Cllr. Nix enquired how long would the project take when the Council is in ownership of a site. Mr. Cullen outlined the various stages necessary to advance the project.

St. Brendans Home.

Mayor Regan said that a letter had been received from the Western Health Board stating that they would attend a special meeting to be convened in St. Brendans to discuss this matter. Town Clerk to liaise with the Health Board officials on this matter and arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Special Meeting - Co. Development Board - Draft Strategy.

The minutes of the special meeting was adopted and signed correct on the proposition of Cllr. Cronin, seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart. Cllr. Hynes stated that he wished to have the minutes amended on page 2 Theme 6 as he had made a strong recommendation that Corrys field be extended right around the lake to Earlsparck where there is a new road. He understood that Ryans land was for sale and that Galway County Council should purchase it. Cllr. Nix said that it was discussed at that meeting and the general consensus was that human invasion would damage the wildlife of the area. Cllr. Loughnane said that a walk around the lake would not be environmentally acceptable and it would put constraints on the various types of wildlife and wetlands and natural and built heritage of the area, which is extremely valuable. Cllr. G.

Burke suggested that a permanent representative should be nominated on the Board and not be rotating with Tuam and Ballinasloe. Cllr. Hynes supported this.

Abstract of Accounts:

Mr. Cullen presented the Abstract of Accounts for the year 2001. These were noted.

Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places - Draft Bye Laws 2002.

Mr. Cullen said that following the statutory procedure and public display two submissions had been received. A discussion took place on the implications of the submissions received from Sergeant F. McCarthy and it was felt that significant changes had been suggested and therefore the bye laws should go on public display for a further month so as the public can make further submissions. Mayor Regan said that he welcomed the submissions and said that it would certainly help to eliminate the problems in many areas of the town which had been causing concern to the public. Cllr. Loughnane said that Gardai asked us to do this and we should support them and the message should go out that Loughrea was not a "soft touch" and it would give a positive image for Loughrea. Various other councillors made comments stating that education of people in relation to drink and drugs should start in the home. Cllrs. P. Hynes and O. Burke referred to submission by Frank Burke and felt that it also had some merit and should be taking on board. Most of the councillors said that the school grounds in the Boys Primary School was private property and if there is abuse of these premises it should be relayed to the Gardai directly. On the proposition of Cllr. G. Burke seconded by Cllr. Curley it was agreed that the draft bye law as amended to include the suggestions from the Gardai go on display for a further month.

Correspondence:

Letter from Jim Smyth, President Loughrea Rugby Football Club, addressed to the Mayor, was read out offering a site for the Swimming Pool.

Motions submitted by Cllr. Cronin.

(i) "I propose that Galway County Council actively pursue a policy of environmentally friendly activities in Loughrea and around the county and foremost is a concentrated approach to rubbish disposal. It is not acceptable that a giant landfill should be created in East Galway to service North, South and West Galway. Reduction, particularly of packaging, also assistance in the creation of individual compost heaps should be a priority. In the area of glass the situation regarding the recycling of it must be urgently addressed now that the Irish Glass Company has closed down. It is not acceptable that containers travel through Loughrea each day, disposing of waste. It cannot make economic sense. I propose that each community take responsibility for the disposal of its waste thereby creating a sense of responsibility and accountability". Cllr Cronin proposed and Cllr. Curley seconded it.

Mr. Cullen complimented Cllr. Cronin on her motion with regard to reuse recycling and reduction and said that these were central to the County Council Waste Management Plan. He said Council officials were always available to address communities on waste disposal. Cllr. Loughnane said that a composting unit should be set up in Loughrea, on a pilot scheme, like Oranmore to reduce waste. Cllr. Hynes applauded this. Mr. Cullen said that funding would be a big factor in setting up such a scheme but he would refer it to the Environment Section. Cllr. Nix said that the Loughrea Environmental Group had visits over the years from the staff of the Environment Section advising on composting and various ways of reducing waste.

(ii) "I propose that Loughrea Town Council re-examine the situation regarding the Fire Brigade service" Cllr. Cronin proposed and Cllr. G. Burke seconded it. Cllr G. Burke stated that a deputation was received some years ago to highlight the problems of the fire service i.e. the urgent need for a second appliance to deal with accidents and emergencies. The need for a larger premises or a second fire station and additional equipment. Cllr. Hynes said that there should be a new Fire Station. Cllr. Nix said that the Department of Community and Family Affairs had smoke alarms and other security items available to communities. Mr. Cullen said that the Council has a five-year Capital

Programme with the Department of the Environment and the above matters would be subject to the availability of funding. Mayor Regan inquired if a temporary measure could be put in place in the interim to facilitate bog fires etc. during the summer. Mr. Cullen said that a stop gap measure would further delay the programme. Cllr. Burke said when the new engines are put in place that the old engine could be used for Civil Defence or Red Cross. Mr. Cullen complimented the Fire Service for the dedication and efficiency in which they carry out their work.

(iii) "In order to allay public fears regarding the town bye-pass, I propose Loughrea Town Council seek a meeting with the NRA requesting clarification of the situation and particularly the commencement date" Cllr. Cronin proposed and Cllr. Hynes seconded it.

Mayor Regan said that the Town Commissioners had met with Mr. Jack Eising of the N.R.A. at an area meeting, which was chaired by Cllr. Loughnane and subsequently taken over by Cllr. Hynes, to discuss this matter. Some of the Councillors said they had not attended the meeting as there was too short of notice. Mayor Regan said that Cllr. Cronin had attended the meeting and the details of the by-pass had been outlined by Mr. Eising. He stated that this would be a stand alone road away from the proposed motorway. He said if there were no problems with land acquisition that the road would go according to plan. Cllr. Hynes said that he was encouraged by this news that there were no obstacles and it would progress quickly.

A.O.B.

Cllr. Kelly Stewart mentioned about Seachtain na Gaeilge in conjunction with Conrad na Gaeilge and outlined the various events taking place.

Venue for meetings.

It was agreed that the library facilities would be used for the monthly meeting in future. Cllr. Cronin would like to convey "Thanks" to Minister Noel Treacy and to Galway County Council for providing a state of the art building for the Library and complimented the Library Staff.

Cllr. G. Burke said that Gaelscoil Riabach is looking for a site for a school and has identified one, which should be given every consideration.

Notice of Motions for meetings

Mayor outlined that the latest time for receipt of motions for the meeting was the Monday prior to the meeting at 5.00p.m in the Town Clerks office.

This concluded the business

Signed this 8th day of April, 2002.

Mayor: James Regan

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 8th April, 2002 in Council Library, Church Street, Loughrea.

Mayor : James Regan.

Councillors: Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Orla Burke, Anna Cronin, Maura Kelly Stewart.

The Meeting opened with prayers.

The Minutes of the Monthly meeting held on the 11 March, 2002 were adopted and signed correct on the proposition of Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. O. Burke.

Matters arising from the minutes:

By Pass.

Cllr. Cronin said that the Chamber of Commerce felt so strongly about the proposed by pass they invited the Town Councillors to a meeting the previous Monday night. Mayor Regan said that a general discussion had taken place with the Chamber of Commerce which proved very constructive. He said that they outlined to the Chamber of Commerce that demonstrations and holding up the traffic was not the road to go down. He informed them that they were the elected body for the town and laid down some ground rules to progress this matter. He said that the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce would now work in tandem for the good of the town.

Swimming Pool.

Cllr. Cronin said that she had read on a local paper that the Vocational Education Committee had offered a site for the swimming pool. Cllr. G. Burke said that the site at the St. Brigids Vocational School, was widely mooted as being the most suitable, even as far back as 1996. Cllr Cronin expressed concern about this site, as it would lead to traffic congestion. She was supported by Cllrs. O. Burke and Kelly Stewart. Mayor Regan said that if the Councillors felt so strongly about this site that they should make their views known to the Swimming Pool Committee. Mr. Cullen informed the meeting that this is one of the sites being investigated.

Special Meeting- Co. Development Board - Draft Strategy.

Cllr. Hynes said that he would like the County Council to negotiate with Mr. Ryan to purchase land with a view to extending Corry's field for a walk way around the lake. He said that he has the support of a number of people in Loughrea for this project. He also said that Duchas would be aparty to further discussions on this matter.

St. Brendans Home.

Cllr. Cronin enquired on the up to date position on this matter and was informed by Mayor Regan that a meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 10th April at St. Brendans Home with Health Board officials.

Site for Gaelscoil.

Gaelscoil has identified a site owned by Galway County Council for a school and had written to the Councillors seeking their support. Cllr. Hynes said that he had made representations to the Senior Executive Officer in Housing and was informed that they were not in a position to give the site at it was needed for local authority housing. Mayor Regan spoke to officials in the housing section and was

informed that discussions were ongoing in relation to this matter. Other Councillors said that this site was reserved for an amenity area for the Laurencefields/Meadowbrook Court residents. A proposition was made that the Town Council was supportive to the Gaelscoil project. It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart. This motion was unanimously supported by all councillors.

Fire Service.

Cllr. Curley enquired as to the present position with regard to the provision of a second tender for Loughrea; the need for a larger premises and additional equipment. He said there is no equipment to deal with accidents and emergencies and if cutting equipment was needed in a recent accident in the town that Loughrea could not provide it. He requested that an Emergency Tender (ET) be provided. He said that there are 12 trained members in the Loughrea Fire Service which has only one fire tender, 6 is the most that can travel on a tender, should a second call come in there is no appliance available. He stated that Ballinasloe, Portumna and Tuam have second appliances and he felt that a second appliance is also needed in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen stated that the 5 Year Capital Programme, adopted by the Council, included development of a second appliance bay and provision of additional fire appliance in Loughrea which will be subject to funding by the Department of the Environment and Local Government. He said that the provision of equipment was part of the programme and the decision rests with the Chief Fire Officer as to where the funding will be allocated. He also said that there is always cover in an emergency situation. He complimented the staff for their dedication and hard work.

Carparking

Mayor Regan asked if there was any further information with regard to the provision of a carpark. Mr. Cullen outlined the up to date position and said that Galway County Council are in the process of acquiring a site adjacent to the existing carpark in Main Street, Loughrea, which would provide 40 extra spaces. He said that they were investigating one or two more sites in private ownership and he was not at liberty to disclose their identity. He said that this would be to cater for long stay parking for people

travelling to Galway on public transport or pooling of cars. He said that they are willing to pay above the norm if a suitable site comes on the market. Cllr Hynes mentioned that Joe Moloney, Cloonoo, Loughrea, had a suitable site available and would be willing to sell it. Mr. Cullen said that carparking in Loughrea is extremely high on the Agenda and the Council are endeavouring to address this problem as quickly as possible. He also mentioned that Traffic Management by laws would be introduced shortly in Loughrea and this will also help in controlling the use of the existing car parks.

Correspondence

Cllr. Hynes said that the I.P.B. had a conference in the Burlington Hotel in Dublin on the 23rd May, 2002, and that we should send a delegate. On the proposition of Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Cronin it was agreed to send Mayor Regan as a delegate.

Invitation from the Chamber of Commerce to the launch of their website in the Library after the town council meeting.

Cllr. Nix said that she had received an invitation from the Sherkin Island Marine Station to attend a conference on recycling on Thursday 6th and Friday 7th June, 2002, in Carrigaline Court Hotel, Co. Cork. Mr. Cullen said that it would depend on funding being available. He said a decision would be made at the next meeting of the Council.

A.O.B.

Cllr. Cronin asked Mr. McKenna when would the grass be cut in Mountpleasant burial ground as it was very overgrown. Mr. McKenna replied that the Loughrea office would do the first two cuttings and then the community would come together and maintain it for the rest of the summer. He said that there was an environmental grant available for maintenance of burial grounds from the Environment Section, Galway

County Council. Cllr. Nix said that the Loughrea Environmental Group had tried to collect money from the owners of plots in Mountpleasant and Garrybreeda burial grounds on previous occasions for the maintenance of the two burial grounds but the amounts were very small.

Speeding in Cross Street, Loughrea.

Cllr. O. Burke, complained about cars speeding at this location inside the speed limit and wondered if ramps or flashing lights could be put in place to stop this. On the proposition of Cllr. G. Burke seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart it was decided to notify the Gardai about this practice. Cllr. Kelly Stewart also complained about 14 - 16 year old teenagers drunk on the streets and being very loud. Mayor Regan said that he hoped when the new by laws are introduced that this would eliminate this problem.

Loughrea Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Cllr. G. Burke said that he heard on local radio that public water supply scheme was being pumped to Craughwell while areas in Loughrea were still waiting to tap in. Cllr. Loughnane said that the scheme was proposed for 25 years and had never advanced.

Standing Orders

Mr. Cullen said that new Standing Orders, under the Local Government Act, 2001, would have to be adopted before the 17th July, 2002. He said a copy of the Draft Standing Orders would be forwarded to each Councillor prior to the meeting so that they can be adopted without delay.

Play

Cllr. Kelly Stewart said that the Seamus O'Kelly Players were putting on a play "The Powers that Be" in the Temperance Hall on 18th 19th and 21st April, 2002, and everybody should try and see it as it referred to a Town Council Meeting.

Motion submitted by Cllr. Loughnane

"I will propose at the next meeting that the bank opposite Charlie Keanes house at Ballygasty be removed and that foundation be replaced with hardcore"

Mayor Regan ruled this out of order.

This concluded the business.

Signed this 13/5/02 day of May, 2002.

Mayor James Regan

Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 13/5/2002, in the Library, Church Street, Loughrea.

Chair: Mayor James Regan.

Members: Cllrs. Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Anna Cronin and Maura Kelly Stewart.

Apologies for Cllr. Orla Burke.

Meeting opened with prayers.

Minutes

The meeting of the monthly meeting held on the 8/4/2002 were adopted and signed as correct on the proposition of Cllr. Curley seconded by Cllr. Nix.

Matters arising from the meeting -

Site for Gaelscoil.

Cllr. Hynes stated that all public representatives were well aware of the situation here that Gaelscoil was sited in a premises in Meadowbrook owned by Respond and have been asked to vacate it by Respond. They were informed that an alternative site would be provided across the road. He said that this is a multi-denominational school and was up and running for the last two years. It had 32 children enrolled and had a waiting list for another 19 children which would mean that 51 children would be enrolled for the next school year. Mayor Regan said that the town council was fully behind the Gaelscoil project. He said that a meeting was arranged with officials from Galway County Council with two members from the Board of Management and it should be left at that.

Cllr. Cronin said that the residents of Laurencefields/Meadowbrook were under the impression that this was going to be preserved as an amenity area for children living there. She said that we should not be cutting down on green areas in the town as there were limited enough. She said that if Gaelscoil had expanded that much in the last two years and still expanding that they will be moving again in the not too distant future. Cllr. Hynes said that it shows how successful Gaelscoil are when it has almost doubled its intake. He said there is a huge interest in Irish in the town and he supported this project.

Fire Service.

Cllr. Nix said that while canvassing in Loughrea that she had met with some members of the fire service and that they requested that a second appliance be provided so as to give a proper service in Loughrea. She also said that a new fire station needed to be built as it is very difficult to get in and out of the existing premises. She said that the Chief Fire Officer should take steps to purchase a green field site and build a new fire station. Cllr. Hynes supported Cllr. Nix and said that the present premises is not adequate to meet the demands made on the fire services. Mr. Cullen said that this is part of the 5 Year Capital Programme, adopted by the Council, included a second appliance bay and provision of additional fire appliance in Loughrea, which is subject to funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Car parking

Mayor Regan enquired as to the up to date position regarding car parking facilities in Loughrea and was told by Mr. Cullen that efforts to acquire a further site for car parking were ongoing and discussions are taking place.

County Development Board.

Cllr. Burke informed the meeting that he had attended the launch of the County Development Board Strategy earlier that day in Athenry. He said that there is over 300 proposals including some recommendations from the town council's special meeting on the strategy.

Swimming Pool.

Cllr. Cronin said she resented the fact that a site near St. Brigid's Vocational School was still being considered, despite the fact that two councillors had objected to this site at the last meeting. She said to Mr. Cullen I am appealing to you not to force us down a cul-de-sac. The residents of the town are telling us they want it in another part of the town and we should listen to the voice of the people. She said she had informal meetings with some members of the Swimming Pool Committee who were as surprised as the town council to see the location of the proposed pool highlighted in a local paper. She accused the Swimming Pool Committee of being a secret society and acting like the Klu Klux Klan. She said that some members of the Swimming Pool Committee are as much at sea as the town council and she wanted to know what was going on. She said that a site was offered by the Rugby Club at Ballygasty to the Swimming Pool Committee and it should be pursued as they were finding it very difficult to make ends meet.

Mr. Cullen stated that he knew the Swimming Pool Committee were doing everything possible to find a suitable site for a Pool in Loughrea. He said that the remarks by Cllr. Cronin were disgraceful and completely out of order. Cllr. Cronin said they were nine years waiting for a swimming pool in Loughrea and to suggest that she was out of order was not acceptable. She proposed a meeting with the Swimming Pool Committee and this was seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart.

Cllr. G. Burke said that he was deeply offended by the remarks made by Cllr. Cronin. He said that the Swimming Pool Committee had sold tickets all over the country to raise funds. He said that they were a democratically elected committee and inform the public of the state of their accounts every year and they have done everything legally. He said they had their first meeting in 1995 to see if Loughrea was in favour of a swimming pool and a subsequent meeting the committee decided that the best site for such an amenity would be adjacent to St. Brigid's Vocational School.

Mayor Regan said that it was a matter for the Swimming Pool Committee to locate the site and when it has been decided upon, it will have to go through the planning process and there will be ample opportunity for people to object to the swimming pool if they feel that strongly about it.

Standing Orders.

Mr. Cullen referred to the Draft Standing Orders, which had previously been circulated to each Councillor and said Standing Orders must, for the Town Council, be in place before 17th July 2002. Referring to Draft Standing Order No. 61, dealing with the procedure for filling of casual vacancies, Cllr. Hynes said that a similar arrangement should apply for a vacancy caused by a non-party Councillor as for a Councillor who is a member of a registered political party. Following discussion it was agreed that a non-party Councillor should submit a prioritised list of nominees, who would be co-opted by Council resolution, in the event of a vacancy being caused by a non-party Councillor.

Mr. Cullen informed the Councillors that with effect from 17th July 2002, the Mayor of the Town Council would automatically become a member of the Loughrea Area Committee of Galway County Council. He said that it had been agreed at the last meeting of the Area Committee that the Mayor should be invited to attend with effect from the next meeting of the Committee, if it were to be on a date earlier than 17th July 2002.

Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places - Draft Bye Law 2002.

Mr. Cullen outlined that the legal process of public display was now complete and it was for the Council to adopt the bye-law if they so wished. It was proposed by Cllr. G. Burke and seconded by Cllr. Cronin that the bye-law be adopted. Cllr. Nix proposed that they come into force on the 21st June, 2002. Cllr. Burke said that the Gardai would now have the power to prosecute offenders who participate in the consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places or in the purchase of drink in certain areas.

Annual Meeting

The date for Annual Meeting was fixed for the 10th June, 2002 followed by the monthly meeting.

E.S.B.

Mayor Regan said that there were rumours circulating in Loughrea that E.S.B. were closing the office and he suggested writing to the office to clarify the facts. Cllr. Hynes said that the offices closed in Gort some years ago and the town was the worse for it. He said under no circumstances would Loughrea tolerate the closure of the E.S.B. offices with the loss of jobs and the loss of revenue to the town. It was proposed by Cllr Regan and seconded by Cllr. Hynes to write to the E.S.B. to ascertain the facts.

St. Brendan's Hospital.

Mayor Regan said that he had asked to put this item on the Agenda as he was not happy with the loss of 100 beds in St. Brendans as outlined by Western Health Board at the special meeting held with them. He said he felt as Mayor of Loughrea he would have to raise this matter to allay fears in the town as a loss of jobs would also be a loss of revenue to the town.

Cllr. Hynes said there was a long waiting list and the Boards suggestion of reducing the bed compliment from 180 to 80 was not acceptable. He also feared loss of jobs and said the plans would be a big loss to Loughrea.

Cllr. Curley wondered where the excess 100 patients would be located under the new proposals and he was also aware of the additional waiting list of 80 patients.

Cllr. Nix said the priority of the Board was the health and safety of the patients and there were plans down the road to improve facilities. There would be no redundancies and she did not know what this alarming talk of closing down was about. She said the Western Health Board personnel outlined the health strategy plan which will be subject to funding. She said that they intended to open at least five centers in the county and patients would be transferred to their respective areas where they would be near family and friends. She said a lot of the patients in St. Brendans were from Connemara and it was very difficult for friends to visit them as they would be relying on public transport. She said when they are transferred that would make beds available to the people in the Loughrea environs.

She was supported by Cllr. G. Burke who felt that it was a very informative meeting and there was no dissent expressed at the proposed plans that stated that there would be no redundancies.

Cllr. Hynes said that Cllr. Nix was an employee of the Western Health Board and that she had a vested interest in the affairs of the Western Health Board. Cllr. Hynes exchanged some heated words, as he was not happy with Cllr. Nix's comments on taking the official line. Mayor Regan asked him to withdraw his remarks but declined. Cllr. Hynes said that he was not going to be silenced by Section 31 and was not going to withdraw his statement. Cllr. Regan and Cronin said that Cllr. Nix was also entitled to her opinion and asked Cllr. Hynes to withdraw his remarks.

Cllr. Cronin agreed that it was disclosed at a meeting with the Board that nobody would lose their jobs but contended that when they left they would not be replaced. She said that the pharmacy and stores had already gone. She said we have a growing and expanding population of elderly people and we should be supplementing the beds instead of reducing them.

Correspondence:

Town Clerk read out correspondence from the Secretary of the Rugby Club inviting the Town Councillors to visit their complex at Ballygasty to see the facilities on offer. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would arrange a meeting as soon as possible with the Rugby Committee.

A.O.B.Special Olympics.

Mayor Regan said that Loughrea would be hosting Singapore in the Special Olympics which would be taking place next year. He requested €300.00 for Special Olympics Road Signs which have been specially designed for each Host Town. He said that provision had been made in the Estimates for this purpose.

Town Engineer.

Mayor Regan informed the Councillors that the Town Engineer, Brendan McKenna was leaving the area to take up an appointment in his native Leitrim. He then made a presentation to Mr. McKenna. Glowing tributes were paid to Mr. Kenna for his dedication and co-operation, efficiency and he was wished the best of luck in his home county.

Public Toilets.

Cllr. G. Burke said that the public toilets at Westbridge had again been vandalised and urged remedial action as soon as possible. He said that funding would have to be made available to refurbish or replace the toilet block. He paid tribute to M. Moloney, Caretaker and said that he was doing an excellent job. Mr. Cullen said that there are pursuing a number of schemes under which funding may be available for this project and he was hopeful of an early decision.

Speeding at Garrybreeda.

Cllr. Cronin enquired if a sign could be erected at Garrybreeda Woods saying "Children at Play" so that motorists might reduce speed at this location.

This concluded the busines.

Signed this 10th of June, 2002.

Mayor: PAT HYNES

Minutes of proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Loughrea Town Council
held in the library, Loughrea on 10th June, 2002.

Chair: Mayor James Regan.

Members: Cllrs. Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Pat Hynes, Matt Loughnane, Gabriel Burke, Anna Cronin and Maura Kelly-Stewart.

Officials: Messrs. Jim Cullen, Director of Services, Enda Gallagher, Town Engineer and Imelda Deely, Town Clerk.

Meeting opened with prayers.

The Mayor said that he was approaching the end of his term as Mayor of Loughrea. He expressed his thanks to the Town Councillors and also to the County Manager, Jim Cullen Director of Services, John Diskin Senior Executive Engineer, Imelda Deely Town Clerk and all the staff of the Council for their assistance during his term of office. He said he was honored to have held the position and referred to some important developments for Loughrea which had happened during his term including the opening of Loughrea Library and the Loughrea Sewerage Scheme. His approach had always been to do what was best for Loughrea and he felt he had done so.

He said he was dismayed at the way he had been treated by some of his colleagues at the time of his re-election last year. He went on to say what went on at last years A.G.M & after that was nothing short of a scandal. He was elected Chairman and Cllr Pat Hynes was elected Vice Chairman. Some members of Fianna Fail, decided to walk out of the meeting. He invited all for the customary Chairmans drink. He asked the barman to approach certain Commissioners standing in the other area of the bar to take their order with my compliments. He returned to inform that one member had told him to tell me to shove the drinks up you know where. A week later Cllr Nix rang him to say a meeting had taken place in The Meadow Court Hotel attended by Minister of State Noel Treacy, Patsy Geraghty Secretary Galway East Comhairle Dail Cheantair & three members of this board, Cllr. Loughnane, Cllr G. Burke & Cllr. Nix. She asked him to ring Patsy Geraghty which he duly did the following day but Mr. Geraghty had not time to talk to him and he asked him to ring on Thursday evening at 7 p.m but he went on to say he wanted him to think about something before he rang him back that he would step down as Chairman. He said no. He said to think about it. On Thursday evening, he told Mr. Geraghty the same thing. He replied he would be removed from the Chair and expeled from the Fianna Fail Party. He said the next thing he got was a letter from Cllr. Orla Burke, Secretary of Loughrea Comhairle Ceantair dated 25th June 2001, which he read to the meeting as follows:

"RE: Comhairle Ceantair Meeting:

Dear Commissioner Regan,

At tonight's meeting of the Comhairle Ceantair, after discussion on the matter before us, the meeting decided by ballot that your expulsion from the Fianna Fail Party take effect from tonight, the 25th inst.

Take notice, an appeal mechanism is in place whereby you can appeal this decision to the Dail Ceantair of the organisation.

Is mise le meas.

Orla Burke. T.C.
Runai.

Mr. Noel Treacy T.D.
Mr. Michael Kill T.D."

He said that this meeting of Loughrea Comhairle Ceantair which took place was illegal because a number of Clubs were unregistered and people were not members. This matter he took up H Q. and referred to an extract from a letter he had received which stated "Taking your particular situation I regret to clarify and confirm that the action of expulsion in respect of James Regan was invalid and is now null and void"

He said that this is the last time he had heard from HQ Re this matter. He had not & and would not go back to the Fianna Fail Party until he got an apology. He had done everything in his power to heal the differences. Since the day he was elected his number one priority was Loughrea and still is. He had at all time acted responsibly and

impartially in the Chair during the last year and would continue to work for the betterment of Loughrea at all times. The last year has been very stressful on his family and himself.

Cllr. Cronin also spoke on the events at the annual meeting last year and said that she wanted to record in the minutes that when Comm. Regan was proposed for the Chair last year it was intended as a gesture of goodwill. He had been seriously ill the previous year and they were also anxious to display our belief that party politics should not govern. There was no private arrangement, there had been no meetings. Unfortunately what was intended as a gesture of conciliation with a view to unity produced the opposite result. Comm. Regan behaved at all times with honour. She also commended him on his commitment to the town in his position as Chair over the past twelve months.

Mr. Cullen said that he had enjoyed working with Mayor Regan and complimented him for his term of office and wished him well in the future. The Town Clerk also expressed her thanks to the Mayor.

Election of Mayor.

Mayor Regan said that he would take nominations for the position of Mayor. Cllr. Hynes was proposed by Cllr. Curley, seconded by Cllr. Kelly Stewart. Cllr O Burke was proposed by Cllr Loughnane and seconded by Cllr G Burke. A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

For Cllr. Hynes - Cllrs. Cronin, Curley, Kelly-Stewart, Regan and Hynes - 5 Votes.

For Cllr. O. Burke - Cllrs. Loughnane, G. Burke, Gunter Nix, O. Burke - 4 Votes.

The Mayor declared Cllr. Hynes elected. Mayor Hynes then took the chair.

Mayor Hynes thanked his proposer and seconder and the members who had voted for him. He said that he was 23 years a member and this was his second time to take the Chair. He was Chairman in 1989 - 1990. He said that an arrangement should be put in place for a rotating the Mayor thus helping the minority parties. He thanked the people of Loughrea who had elected him to the Council. He thanked Mayor Regan for the fair and impartial way in which he conducted the meetings and for his diligent work over the year.

Cllr. O. Burke also thanked her proposer and seconder and the members who had voted for her.

Election of Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Hynes said that he would take proposals for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Curley was proposed by Mayor Hynes, seconded by Cllr. Cronin.
Cllr. G. Burke was proposed by Cllr Gunter Nix, seconded by Cllr. Loughnane
A vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

For Cllr. Curley: Cllrs Cronin, Kelly-Stewart, Hynes, and Curley - 4 Votes.

For Cllr. G. Burke: Cllrs. Loughnane, O. Burke, Nix and G. Burke - 4 Votes

Cllr. Regan abstained.

As the result of the vote was equal with both candidates having received 4 votes, Mayor Hynes stated that he was exercising his second or casting vote in favour of Cllr Curley. He declared Cllr Curley elected to the position of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Curley thanked his proposer and seconder and the members who voted for him.


Cllr. Burke thanked his proposed and seconder and the members who voted for him.

Mayor Hynes proposed that Cllr. Regan continue as the Town Council representative on the Loughrea Chamber of Commerce. This was seconded by Cllr. Curley.

This concluded the business.

Signed this the 9th day of September, 2002.

Mayor,



Minutes of proceedings at the Monthly Meeting of the Loughrea Town Council held on the 10/6/2002, in the Library, Church Street, Loughrea.

Chair: Mayor Pat Hynes.

Members: Cllrs. Jimmy Curley, Mary Gunter Nix, Orla Burke, James Regan, Gabriel Burke, Anna Cronin, Matt Loughnane and Maura Kelly Stewart.

Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 13/5/2002 were confirmed and signed as correct on the proposition of Cllr. Gunter Nix seconded by Cllr. Curley

Matters arising from the meeting -

Site for Gaelscoil.

Cllr. Regan said he had been informed that a resolution had been arrived at on the question of accommodation for the Gaelscoil. A meeting had taken place between representatives from the Gaelscoil and officials of Galway County Council and it had been agreed that the Gaelscoil would be allowed to continue in the community building at St. Laurence's Field and a small area would be made available to accommodate one or two pre-fabs. This arrangement would be a temporary measure while a suitable site for the Gaelscoil is found. Councillors welcomed this positive development pointing to the important role played by the Gaelscoil in the town.

Public Toilets

In response to an enquiry from Cllr. G. Burke, Mr. Cullen stated that the question of replacing the public toilets is under consideration by the Council and the Environment Department were examining the most appropriate options.

E.S.B.

Cllr. Regan enquired if a reply had been received from the E. S. B in relation to this matter. Town Clerk informed meeting that she had written to the E.S.B. but no reply had been received.

Signs at Garrybreeda

Cllr. Cronin enquired if any progress had been made with regard to the erection of signs at this location and was informed by Mr. Enda Gallagher that the "Children at Play" signs had been ordered and it was expected to have them in place shortly.

St. Brendan's Hospital.

Cllr. Nix said that at the last meeting of the Council when the future of St. Brendan's Hospital was being discussed remarks had been made by Mayor Hynes that she had a conflict of interest and she requested that these remarks be withdrawn. Mayor Hynes stated that the future of St. Brendan's Hospital was an issue that he and other Councillors felt very strongly about, but he would be concerned if anybody was offended by comments made by him and accordingly he withdrew the remarks. Cllr. Gunter Nix said that the Town Council should visit Achill as suggested by Noel Brett and Adrian Ahearne of the Western Health Board to see the facilities that have been put in place by the Health Board. She said that the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor should arrange this trip. This was supported by Cllr. Cronin and Cllr. G. Burke.

Fire Station

Cllr. Nix enquired what the present position was with regard to the Fire Station in Loughrea. Mr. Cullen informed the members that the Council had submitted a 5 Year Plan to the Department of the Environment for Capital Development Works in the Fire Service for the County and City. The provision of an additional Appliance Bay and the replacement of the existing appliance were included in the programme. He said that the Council was dependant on funding from the Department of the Environment to advance, not just the Loughrea proposals, but the proposals for the County and City as a whole. It was proposed by Cllr. Gunter Nix and seconded by Cllr. Kelly-Stewart that the Town Council should write to the Department of the Environment in support of the County Council programme and requesting that priority would be given to the Loughrea proposals

Car Parking.

Cllr. G. Burke said that there should be loading bays on the Main Street to make it easier for the delivery of commercial goods to commercial and retail outlets. Cllr. O. Burke suggested that the bus space be used within certain hours of the day as a loading bay. Cllr. Gunter Nix said it that it would be very difficult for firms travelling from Dublin to make deliveries early in the morning because of the distances they would have to travel and the uncertainty of the time they might arrive at. Cllr. Cronin said that Cllr. Regan should raise this matter with the Chamber of Commerce at their next meeting to get their views or suggestions on the matter.

Standing Orders.

Mr. Cullen said that this matter had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Town Council. He said that standing order No. 61 had now been amended to take account of the views expressed by the Councillors that a casual vacancy caused by a non-party Councillor should be filled by a non-party Councilor nominated in advance. Mayor Hynes said he supported the standing order as now before the Council and that it reflected the views expressed at the previous meeting. Cllr. Loughnane said that he could not accept a situation where any Councilor could nominate in advance a person or number of persons to be co-opted

to the Town Council. He said that it should be possible to provide for the filling of a casual vacancy with a non-party candidate other than as now proposed.

Cllr Cronin proposed that the standing orders as circulated to the Councilors be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Kelly-Stewart.

Cllr Loughnane proposed that standing order number 61 be amended by the insertion of the following – “Where the person causing the casual vacancy was a non-party candidate at the time of his/her election or co-option, the casual vacancy shall be filled by a non-party person”. This was seconded by Cllr G. Burke.

A vote was taken on the amendment proposed by Cllr Loughnane which resulted as follows: -
For the amendment - Cllrs. Loughnane, Gunter Nix, O. Burke and G. Burke - 4 Votes
Against the amendment – Cllrs. Hynes, Cronin, Regan, Curley and Kelly Stewart – 5 Votes.
The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

A vote was then taken on the proposal to adopt the Standing Orders, which resulted as follows -
For Standing Orders: Cllrs. Hynes, Cronin, Regan, Curley and Kelly Stewart. - 5 Votes.
Against Standing Orders: Cllrs. Loughnane, O. Burke, Gunter Nix and G. Burke - 4 Votes

The Mayor declared the Standing Orders adopted.

Sale of a house.

The sale of 8 Athenry Road, Loughrea, was noted.

Correspondence.

Swimming Pool

A letter as read out by the Town Clerk from the Secretary of Loughrea Swimming Pool and Amenity Development in relation to an article on the local press regarding the proposed Swimming Pool. They requested that the remarks made by Cllr. Cronin be withdrawn as the committee felt unjustly attacked and deeply offended by the remarks contained in the report. Cllr. G Burke asked Cllr. Cronin to withdraw the remarks made about the Swimming Pool Committee of being a secret society and acting like the Klu Klux Klan. He said that he was Chairman of the Committee and resented the unfair allegations made about the committee. He said that they were a democratically elected committee and had audited accounts for each year. Cllr. Cronin said that she had rang the Secretary of the Committee immediately to put the report in context. She said that this was a heated debate and her choice of words were ill chosen but that she was frustrated at the long delay in providing a Swimming Pool in Loughrea. She said that the lack of information on the investigation of sites selected and on the outcome of the feasibility study carried out on the sites was reason that she used those words. Cllr. Loughnane said that he wanted his own position made very clear and he wanted to disassociate himself from the remarks made and she was not speaking for the majority of the

councillors. He also appealed to Cllr. Cronin to withdraw her remarks about the Swimming Pool Committee. Cllr. Regan said that he had warned the Councillors less than a month ago to be very careful on the remarks they make at meetings no matter how heated the debate is. Cllr. Loughnane said that the record of the minute would remain until removed by Cllr. Cronin and withdraw her remarks about the Swimming Pool Committee. Cllr Cronin reiterated what she had said previously and said that it was a heated debate and said that she had friends in the Swimming Pool Committee and did not want to offend anybody and she apologized for the remarks made about the committee. Mayor Hynes said that Cllr. Cronin had now apologized and that the meeting should move from this item.

Mount Carmel.

A letter was read out by the Town Clerk from the Mother Prioress, St. Joseph's Monastery, Mount Carmel, Loughrea, regarding a planning matter at Cosmona, Loughrea. She requested the support of the Councillors to oppose the zoning of a site adjacent to the convent for residential purposes. She said that a residential development would impinge on their privacy. Mayor Hynes said that the Carmelite Order was in the town for over 300 years and he fully supported their cause. Cllr. Nix said that the nuns are a very spiritual order and brought comfort to a lot of people in the community. This was unanimously supported by all of the Councillors.

Town Engineer.

Mayor Hynes welcomed Enda Gallagher to Loughrea and wished him every happiness. This was supported by councillors and officials.

This concluded the business.

Signed this the 8th July, 2002.

PAC

Mayor: *Pat Hynes*